

THE TIMES

Steel stoppage likely to go on for a month

Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said last night that the state steel strike would go on for a month. There is a serious widening of the trade union challenge to the BSC plans to axe jobs, cut steel-making capacity, and enforce a wage deal for steel workers.

Temporary truce with miners sought

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

The state steel strike is likely to go on for a month and TUC leaders are recommending withdrawal of the South Wales pit shutdown threat—but only at the risk of national strikes later.

These developments last night represent a serious widening of the trade union challenge to the British Steel Corporation's plans to axe 53,000 jobs, cut steel-making capacity and enforce a self-financing wage deal for steel workers.

After a day of talks at TUC headquarters embracing unions in steel and other state industries, particularly coal mining, the TUC Nationalised Industries Committee drew up a formula to buy a temporary truce in the South Wales coalfield, but at the price of "serious industrial consequences" if the BSC does not put off its plant closure plans and have talks with all the unions involved.

Union leaders seek early talks

This peace proposal will be discussed by the Wales TUC leadership on Monday, and as coalfield union leaders did not vote against it last night it is expected that the widespread industrial action, due to start on January 21, will be abandoned.

Mr David Lea, assistant general secretary of the TUC, asked about the significance of the remarks about serious industrial consequences in the TUC document, said: "The clear inference is that stoppages of work will be considered if there was no reasonable accommodation reached in the talks".

The union leaders want talks with British Steel to start at the earliest possible moment with the objective of maintaining steelmaking at Port Talbot, Swansea, and Consort and taking into account the social and employment effect of the BSC's closure proposals.

The TUC steel committee wants to meet ministers or the TEC or both, to discuss these proposals together with the issue of coking coal imports for which the unions want an £18m producing subsidy.

Leaders of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation are to meet officials of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service on Monday, but Mr William Sirs, the union general secretary, last night stated that he state steel strike involving well over 100,000 men would go on for a month.

"There is not a shadow of doubt about that. When we go to Acas it will be only skirting round discussions of possibilities. Unless there is any money on the table nothing will happen."

A possible extension of the strike into the private sector, involving another 10,000,

workers, will be discussed at another meeting of ISTC representatives on Tuesday.

Mr Sirs said he will be explaining the pressures coming from state steelworkers on his union's executive for a "one out, all out" shutdown of steelmaking in Britain. The union's executive meets the following day to discuss its next move.

But it is the widening of the dispute into the area of government policy on industry that will cause ministers most anxiety. It is a statement on the BSC's closure proposals adopted yesterday, the TUC steel committee said: "The Government have, ostensibly, contracted out of the situation declaring that the corporation's problems are no concern of theirs, while in reality they have created the problem and are perpetuating it by their policies.

There is a further threat by the steel unions to seek a High Court injunction against British Steel alleging that the corporation has not carried out its statutory duty laid down in the 1967 Act of nationalisation to consult with the unions.

Under the terms of the steel Act the unions have not been fully consulted regarding the details of the proposals being put forward by the corporation and we demand a suspension of the proposals until they have been fully discussed", the TUC policy document insists.

Moreover, the Government have in no way been prepared to accept the responsibility for the devastating social and abrogation of responsibility regional consequences of industrial action.

We do not believe that the British people would in any way support this policy if they were given a full account of these consequences. There is not much time left for a change of course."

Risk of wider stoppages

This paper goes before the full TUC General Council on January 23, when it is almost certain to be endorsed as full TUC policy. In essence, the unions are demanding that the BSC should accede to their demands for genuine consultation or face the risk of wider stoppages than the coal-steel transport strike called by the Wales TUC.

Mr Frank Chappie, chairman of the Nationalised Industries Committee, refused to be drawn on the nature of the "most serious industrial consequences" that would follow if the general council did not consider that the unions' talks with British Steel led to a reasonable accommodation.

He did not argue with the suggestion that they will be like the Wales TUC proposals but on a larger scale.

Other steel news, page 2

Vital questions, page 14

Letters, page 15

Sling-shot violence: Like David tackling Goliath, a young Iranian uses a sling to launch a stone at Revolutionary Guards supporting Ayatollah Khomeini in fierce fighting at Tabriz, capital of the East Azerbaijan province. Supporters of Ayatollah Sharif-Madar, who want Tehran to grant them greater autonomy and to appoint new local officials, tried yesterday to seize the city's radio station for the third time in a month, and the clashes resulted in at least eight dead and more than 100 injured. Pro-Khomeini troops defended the station from behind sandbags. Ayatollah Sharif-Madar, who has made fruitless appeals for calm, may meet Ayatollah Khomeini within the next two days to discuss ways of de-fusing the Tabriz situation

Report, page 7

BR scientists invent way to recycle oil

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

A saving of more than £10m a year and 100,000 tons of high quality lubricating oil can be made in Britain through an invention which must rank among the most important single innovations in energy conservation since the crisis of 1973.

A process for recycling lubricants of diesel engines has been perfected by scientists at British Rail, and the equipment designed for recycling oil from locomotives is to be extended for operators of lorries, buses, ships and industrial engines.

The discovery of an economic method for recovering diesel lubricants was made four years ago. A research group of British Rail's laboratories at Doncaster has carried out proving trials since then on 100 locomotives of the total fleet of 3,000 diesel electric engines. A special plant was built at Birmingham, South Humberside, for recycling.

Details of the invention were presented yesterday, with plans for other plants to cover all the railway network and with the terms of a commercial agreement with a company specialising in the forms of recycling of oils, Sunplex Limited.

That organization is establishing other centres, some of them under licence, at which oil from road vehicles, marine engines and factories can be processed.

Mr Gilbert Armstrong, managing director of Sunplex, refers to the procedure as "laundering" so as to make a distinction with a method of re-refining of oil products that is possible, though at great expense.

The invention on a discovery by chemists at the Doncaster laboratory of a blend of agents for coagulating most

of the contaminants such as carbonaceous particles from unburnt fuel, traces of metal from the wear on pistons and so on.

After treatment with the coagulant, the mixture is laundered in a standard type of industrial centrifuge which separates the coagulant that has absorbed the contaminants from the oil.

The advantage of the coagulant, for which British Rail has a patent, lies in the ability it opens for small and inexpensive recycling plants.

A unit costing £50,000 will handle upwards of 100,000 gallons a year, whereas refining is considered practical only in large operations with a plant of 100,000 gallons a day.

Mr Brian Buckley, of British Rail's scientific services, said recycled oil saved 50 per cent of the cost of diesel lubricants, and the recovery process yielded 90 gallons of "as new" oil for each 100 gallons laundered.

The clean substance is ready for immediate use or for mixing with original lubricant. In the tests with locomotives, engines had been operated exclusively on recycled compounds.

The performance of each vehicle and the state of the engine had been compared at the normal servicing stages of planned maintenance with the rest of the fleet. There were no differences.

Mr Armstrong said that of more than one million tons of lubricating oils used in Britain a year, more than 100,000 tons are recoverable through the new process to be called Dieselene.

The invention hinges on a discovery by chemists at the Doncaster laboratory of a blend of agents for coagulating most

US West Coast dockers refuse to join Soviet shipping boycott

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Jan 10

American dockers on the West Coast are not going to join colleagues at ports on the East Coast and Gulf Coast in a boycott of Soviet shipping.

The legality of the boycott is being studied by Government officials here, but so far the Government has made no attempt to force the dockers to abandon their plans.

Mr David Beagle, of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union in San Francisco said that his union was not intending to participate in the boycott of Soviet shipping.

As the American dockers are not going to join the boycott, it is difficult to determine just how much Soviet shipping will be affected by the boycott.

It is probable that quite a number of ships will now be routed to the West Coast, rather than to American ports.

The Federal Maritime Administration noted that as of Tuesday of this week there were six Soviet ships in American ports with only one of these on the West Coast. Registered movements call for the arrival of 15

Soviet ships on the East and Gulf coasts in the next four weeks.

The Department of Justice is believed to be looking into the question of whether the dockers can legally impose their boycott. So far no decision has been taken. An official of the Longshoremen's Association in New York said today that the union had received no calls from the Government.

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STEEL STRIKE

Four more pickets arrested in South Yorkshire after union blockade of private sector plant

From Ronald Kershaw
Northern Industrial Correspondent
Sheffield

South Yorkshire continued to be the trouble centre of the national steel strike yesterday. Four more pickets were arrested for threatening behaviour outside the private sector works of Hadfields at Sheffield, bringing the total arrested so far to 12.

Inside the plant union and strike officials were examining the company's books and working operations at the invitation of the company in an attempt to convince the strikers that the company was not fulfilling orders that would normally go to British Steel Corporation works.

The officials reported to their strike committee late yesterday afternoon and last night the committee was still deciding whether pickets should be withdrawn. A committee spokesman said a decision would not be taken immediately.

Talks were continuing last night between strike committee representatives and the management of Templeborough rolling mills, a company jointly owned by the BSC and private business.

The company has stopped production because it has no more storage space for its products and pickets are refusing to allow laden lorries to leave the works.

If the pickets remain at Templeborough, about 400 workers are likely to be laid off today.

At the Scunthorpe BSC plant 3,500 craftsmen began to be laid off at 6 am yesterday as nine craft unions were meeting in London to decide whether to join the national strike.

This was being interpreted by the Scunthorpe labour force as a generous gesture by BSC, because laid-off workers became eligible for social security benefits.

At the Teesside BSC plant 3,500 craftsmen were working normally yesterday, as were 600 at the Consett works in Co Durham.

Mr Michael Mallett, chairman of the Yorkshire and Humberside regional council of the Confederation of British Industry, gave warning at a meeting at Leeds yesterday that if the steel strike was not called off in the next two weeks, hundreds of companies in the region would have to start laying off workers.

"The lay-offs would not be immediate; they might continue or even start long after the strike is over because of the difficulties in obtaining replacements for depleted stocks," he said.

The strike would lead to increased imports which would pour into the country once the



A picket being arrested outside the privately owned Hadfields steelworks in Sheffield

dispute ended. "At present most of our members have stocks but the problems will mainly hit us in a month's time and onwards."

Our Industrial Editor writes: Picketing by striking steelworkers in South Wales was extended yesterday beyond private sector producers and private stockholders.

A steel processing company, Coated Metals, gave a warning that if lorries were prevented from delivering orders to British and foreign customers it would have to close its plant near Swansea and lay off 100 workers.

Mr William Sims, general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, whose union is at the centre of the strike, was being asked to intervene by the British Iron and Steel Consumers' Council.

Mr Terence Molossi, joint

managing director of Coated Metals, said that "life was being made very difficult" for the company and only one haulage company was prepared to send vehicles into the plant.

The company buys more than 95 per cent of its supplies of sheet coil from BSC plants in South Wales. The steel used there is covered with aluminium for use in the manufacture of motor vehicle silencers and in domestic appliances.

"While we are not being totally blocked, drivers are being harassed. But if lorries cannot get in or out we shall close down, although we have enough steel in stock to keep production going for between three and four weeks," he said.

The strike by the BSC workers is also affecting Britain's leading suppliers of industrial gases, BOC, the market leader, and Air Pro-

ducts. Both supply oxygen, nitrogen and other gases to the corporation.

BOC has a number of production plants on or near large steelmaking sites, with the gasses being supplied for iron and steelmaking by pipeline. BOC said that it had reduced production from a number of plants, although it was continuing to supply other leading industrial users from those plants.

The unions believed that to concede management demands would "be an absolute death-trap", leading to fragmented industrial action which could not be controlled and would create havoc throughout BSC.

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HOME NEWS

NF chairman demands more power to deal with subversion

By Ian Bradley

Mr John Tyndall, chairman of the National Front, has said that he will resign unless he is given the power to deal with subversion and division which, he says, threaten to destroy the party.

In a letter to regional and branch organizers, he says the NF is going through the most critical period in its history "and will not survive 1980" unless certain matters are firmly dealt with now.

High on the list of those matters he puts the fact that prominent positions are being held by homosexuals, the widespread infiltration of the NF by those who want to divide and destroy it, and the denial to him of effective powers of leadership and control over the organization's internal affairs.

Mr Tyndall told *The Times* yesterday that later this month he would be convening a special meeting of the national directorate at which he would call for an extraordinary general meeting of all members. At that meeting he would propose certain changes in the constitution which would give him the power to make decisions and to approve of disapprove the appointment of key party officers.

He would regard those proposals as involving a vote of confidence in his leadership.

Mr Tyndall said that the infiltration of the NF had come both from organizations on the far left and from other groups "who have planted people in the National Front to divide us". He mentioned specifically the League of St George or that it had intercepted mail.

Football club chairman is cleared on three counts

From Our Correspondent

Nottingham. Stuart Dryden, chairman of Nottingham Forest Football Club, was cleared at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday of three charges of stealing old pension books and cashing them.

Judge Kellock, QC, directed the jury to return verdicts of not guilty on the three charges, which involved £24. He upheld a submission by Mr Peter Taylor, QC, for the defence, that it would not be safe to proceed further on those counts.

Mr Dryden, aged 53, a magistrate, who gave his address as Trevor Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham, still faces 12 charges of theft and deception.

The trial continues today.

Legal curbs on council votes called 'bizarre'

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Local authorities are becoming increasingly concerned about the Government's interpretation of the law that disqualifies councillors with pecuniary interests from voting on matters related to those interests. The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday that the situation was bizarre.

So far 31 councillors with children at state schools have been told by the Department of the Environment that they may speak but not vote on matters relating to school meals, milk and transport charges.

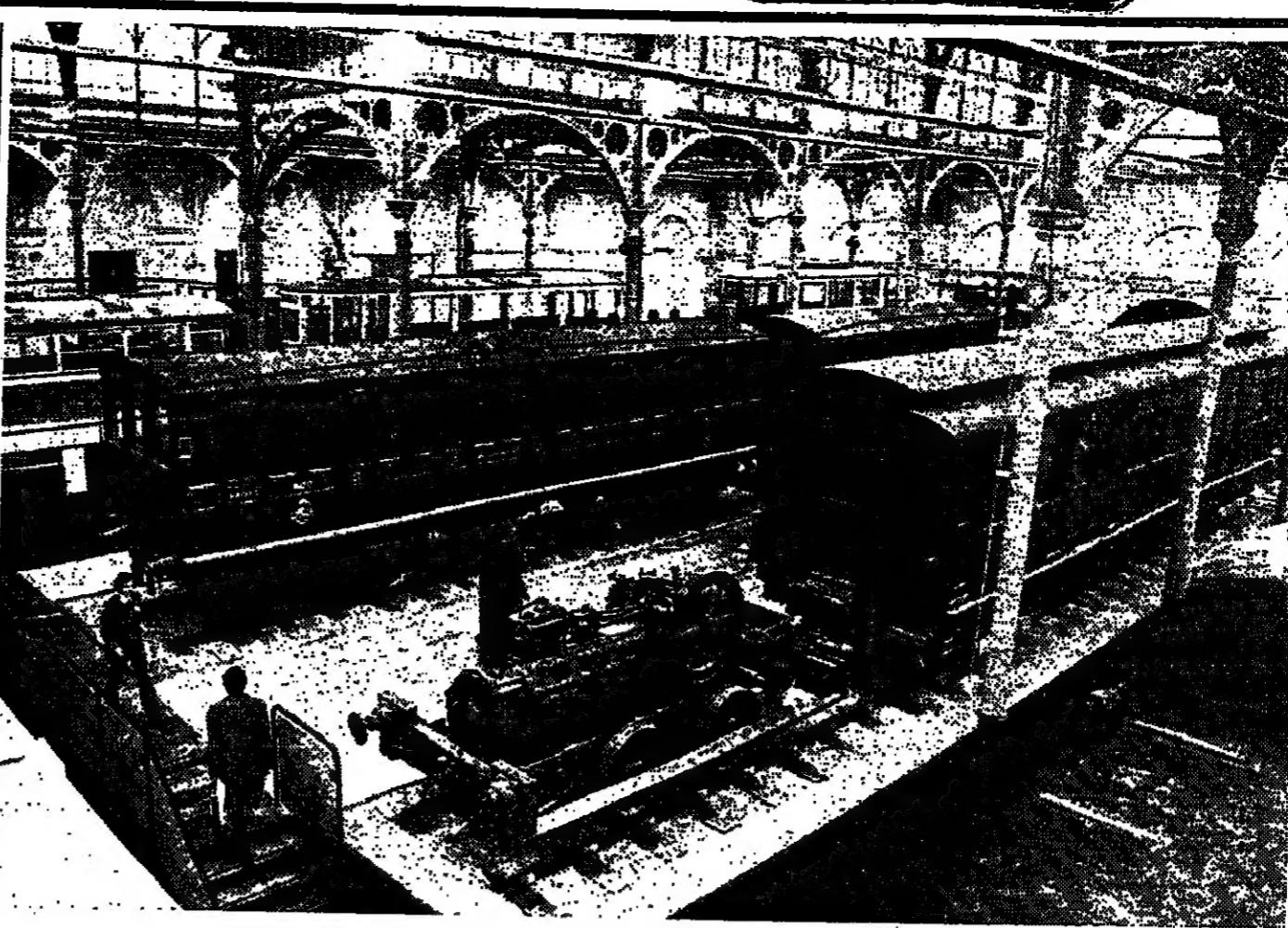
Hundreds more councillors are almost certainly breaking the law by voting on, or even discussing, such matters at council meetings without first gaining the necessary dispensation from the Secretary of State for the Environment.

Councillors who fail to declare a pecuniary interest are liable to prosecution, with a fine of up to £200.

Most councillors feel that the Secretary of State should grant a blanket dispensation, both to speak and to vote, to all parents with children at state schools, similar to the dispensation given to tenants to vote on council house charges.

Control of the building is the principal weapon being used by those people who want to smash the party. They have used the company structure as a power base", he said.

Mr Kavanagh said that the constitutional movement set up in December now had more than 2,000 members within the National Front. He denied that the movement had any formal links with the League of St George or that it had intercepted mail.



Photograph by Harry Kerr

The Brill branch steam locomotive (in foreground), built in 1872, is among the exhibits in place at Covent Garden.

200 years of transport go on show

By a Staff Reporter

The keys to the new London flower market in the former Covent Garden flower market were handed by the building contractors to the museum's management yesterday.

The association said that no one would know for certain whether the Government's interpretation of the law was correct until it was tested in the courts.

Previously, matters like charges for school meals were believed to be outside the disqualification clause of the 1972 Local Government Act, the association said.

Mr Gordon Cunningham, education officer for the Association of County Councils, said: "The restrictions were surely intended to ensure that people are not able to pursue business interests through their council work, and not to prevent consumers taking part in decisions on local authority services."

Mr Timothy Raison, Minister of State at the Home Office, approached Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, on behalf of his Aylesbury constituents to ask for dispensation for councillors with children at state schools. His request was refused.

Dispute threatens power station

A pay dispute threatens the completion of Britain's largest oil-fired power station, on the Isle of Grain, in the Thames estuary.

The dispute concerns payments for the thermal insulation.

The Central Electricity Generating Board said yesterday that if an agreement was not reached with the General and Municipal Workers' Union the site would be shut and 2,000 jobs lost.

Waste handling 'like US gas chambers'

From Our Correspondent

Wolverhampton. The method used by two West Midlands companies to handle lethal cyanide waste was the same as the Americans used for judicial executions in their gas chambers, the prosecution alleged at Wolverhampton Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Richard Curtis, QC, for the prosecution, said that in the gas chamber condemned men were executed by mixing acid with cyanide, which gave off

deadly cyanide vapours. In the Wednesbury yard of the two companies the same dangerous process went on.

He told the court that workers mixed acid with industrial cyanide waste, a process that liberated cyanide vapour. He added: "It was extremely dangerous; even an eggcup of the vapour can be fatal."

He said that the defendants had not got the facilities or the knowledge to handle cyanide in the proper way, and if that sort

of waste was being handled, protective clothing and carefully controlled conditions were required.

The most workmen had was a pair of Wellington boots and an odd pair of gloves,

Brassey Ltd, and Brayley (Waste Disposal) Ltd, of Lea Brook Road, Wednesbury, West Midlands, and four employees

have all denied four charges of conspiracy relating to the illegal dumping on land and at sea of toxic industrial waste.

The trial continues today.

Chiefs of staff reports seen by Prof Blunt

By Stewart Tindall

While spying for Russia, Professor Anthony Blunt and H. A. R. Philby attended wartime meetings of the intelligence committee which reported to the chiefs of staff and through them to Churchill.

The Joint Intelligence Committee, to the Chiefs of Staff was set up to coordinate the flow of intelligence and provide assessments before operations. The membership included the head of intelligence in each branch of the Armed Services and the directors of MI5 and MI6. The chairman was a senior Foreign Office man.

The committee could provide a global view of intelligence and draw from that an assessment in answer to questions from the chiefs of staff. They would be asked, for example, to estimate the possibility of the Germans invading Russia.

The details and deliberations of the committee have not been publicly revealed.

But it is known that every Tuesday the committee would meet the chiefs of staff and go over their reports and assessments.

On several occasions, an intelligence source reports, Professor Blunt attended to represent MI5 and Philby on behalf of MI6 but not necessarily at the same time. Both men were most senior enough in their service to have been deputies for their directors and it is thought they attended to give expert advice.

Throughout the war the committee kept an eye on the position of their Allies and by 1944 Russia began to loom large. It was probably at that point that Philby and Professor Blunt would have been used.

Since the revelation of his role Professor Blunt has maintained that he based on only relatively trivial things about MI5 and the details of German military intelligence messages decoded in Britain.

Monolingual America

Dr Steven Muller, president of the Johns Hopkins University, argues in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* today that the "monolingual isolationism" of America is shameful and damaging. Professor Steven Rose considers the state of learned journals in biology, and Patricia Santinelli reports on the reopening of the debate about the future of the British Library.

It'll guide a tank at night or spot a badger.

The lens-like object pictured above is a product of over 50 years of image tube technology that's making even the Americans envious.

It's an image intensifier that lets you see, no matter how little light there is – even starlight will do.

Light particles are piped through an almost unimaginably fine and concentrated system of glass fibres, to be amplified up to 100,000 times. So image intensifiers operate in the dark, making possible a host of night-time military and security activities.

And naturalists can keep watch on nocturnal animals without disturbing them.

But that's not all that Mullard

technology offers when night falls.

There are infra-red detectors that are highly sensitive to temperature differences.

They construct a picture from hot and cold not unlike a photograph does from light and shade. So they can 'see' through fog, or smoke, or take weather-map pictures from satellites.

In these technologies – both of them important for export markets – Mullard lead the world.

It's not really surprising.

We are the largest producers of electronic components in this country and, right across the board, industry comes to us for some of the most advanced components technology

available in the world today.

We, in return, are only too happy to co-operate fully and closely.

And that's a combined effort to see us through into the future.



Mullard

A vital component in industry

HOME NEWS

Britain's car import bill put at £2,600m

By Peter Weyman Correspondent

The import bill for the record number of 965,909 foreign cars sold in Britain last year will be about £2,600m, according to a provisional estimate from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

Imported models took up 56.28 per cent of the new car market in 1979 and have put the British motor industry trade balance in the red for the first time since the First World War. The deficit could be about £300m, compared with the surplus of £1,600m in 1978.

The figure of £2,600m represents the value of foreign cars at the border before allowing for duty and value-added tax and for importers' and dealers' margins. The 1978 import bill, when 801,000 foreign cars were sold, taking 49 per cent of the market, was £1,765m.

Despite the surge of car imports in recent years, the British motor industry has traditionally prided itself on being a net exporter. In 1978 it sold cars, commercial vehicles and components abroad worth £3,867m, giving a surplus over imported vehicles and components of £753m.

The industry blames damage disputes for its dismal performance last year. All companies were affected by the strikes of transport drivers and engineering workers, and there were long disputes at both Chrysler UK (now Talbot) and Vauxhall.

BL's share of the market fell to only 19.63 per cent, compared with more than 40 per cent 10 years ago. In an attempt to recover its position, BL is launching a big "buy British" campaign, of which a recent letter to *The Times* by Sir Michael Edwards, the chairman, was the opening.

Ford was the market leader, with 28.29 per cent, but also the biggest importer of cars, supplying the British market with Fiestas, Capris, Granadas from its factories on the Continent. The other leading importers were Datsun, Renault and Volkswagen/Audi.

Catholics tempted by separate Irish talks

From Christopher Thomas Belfast

Ulster's Democratic Unionists and Roman Catholic political leaders seem likely to agree to a proposal by Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to split his constitutional conference into parallel discussions.

The Northern Ireland Office will next week invite the four main parties to wide-ranging talks with Mr Atkins on issues excluded from the "whole paper" on Ulster, published in November, which forms the basis for the constitutional conference.

At the top of the agenda for the informal talks, which the Government hopes will begin at the end of the month, will be security. The Government's strategy will be to broaden discussion on the issue into an all-Ireland context, which it believes is in any case logical because of the cross-border cooperation necessary to thwart terrorists.

The Government hopes to bolster up what is essentially an "artificial statelet". The initiative is going to fail even if the IRA were to declare a ceasefire.

Study Commission on the Family awarded £100,000

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The independent Study Commission on the Family, which aims at stimulating and informing public debate, has been given a £100,000 grant by the Leverhulme Trust to continue its work for the next two years.

The commission will be publishing occasional papers over the next few months, including one on marriage in Britain since the end of the last war.

Sir Campbell Addison, chairman of the commission, said yesterday that the family had become an important political issue with all the main parties emphasising that the family was central to their philosophies. But too often debate about the family ignored available evidence.

"The study commission aims

to present the facts", he said. "It will review relevant research in various fields and relate this to the policies of central government, industry and the voluntary bodies. The objective is to generate informed and participative public discussion about the family."

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Cancer in the 1980s-3: Controversy over use of screening

More people taking part in test programmes

By Annabel Ferriman

Certain other types of screening do not have those advantages. Screening of the breast by X-ray is expensive and exposes women to radiation, and screening by examination is less effective and often reveals lumps only after they have spread.

Screening for cancer of the cervix, the only screening carried out on a large scale in Britain (two million women a year), is also fairly expensive, at about £10 a time. Furthermore, much of the £20m a year spent on such screening could be wasted because it is mainly young middle-class women who are being screened, while the incidence is highest among older, working-class women.

A third type of cancer screening in Britain is for bladder cancer, which is carried out among men in the rubber and chemical industries who have been exposed to certain high-risk chemicals.

No effective screening method has been found for lung cancer, the biggest killer.

Controversy surrounds the usefulness of screening programmes. Screening has a strong emotional appeal because it suggests the possibility of greater reducing cancer rates, but the studies of its effectiveness are open to different interpretations.

Supporters of screening for cervical cancer say that a large

scale survey in British Columbia showed that mortality fell after screening had been introduced. But others suggest that the rate was falling anyway and that the high rate of hysterectomies in North America render such studies unreliable.

Studies in Iceland and Finland, however, are more widely accepted as showing that screening for cervical cancer reduces mortality.

Some of those who consider screening a waste of money say that it shows up pre-cancerous lumps which if left might never become cancerous.

Only one reliable large-scale study has been carried out to discover whether screening for breast cancer is effective. That took place in New York in the mid-1960s.

It showed that screening was useful for women over 50, reducing mortality by about a third. It did not reduce mortality for women under 50, though it is not known why.

It could have been because X-ray techniques then used did not show up cancers in the relatively denser breasts of younger women. They had to rely on physical examination, a method which does not show up changes in the breast as early as X-rays.

With newer X-ray methods, screening for breast cancer might be useful for younger women as well.

To discover the most effec-

Council plea on planned block grant change

By Christopher Wernan Local Government Correspondent

The barrage of protest against the Government's proposals for the financing of local government continues today with a letter to Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, from the chairman of the Association of District Councils, Mr Ian McCallum.

In the letter, also sent to the Prime Minister, Mr McCallum expresses the association's "total opposition" to the proposed block grant system and control on capital expenditure. The proposals were drawn to the traditional freedoms of local government by the substitution of Whitehall controls for decision-making at local level, he says.

Mr McCallum asserts that the proposals would, in the long term, result in a fundamental change in the balance between central and local government and have serious and damaging consequences for local democracy.

"We accept completely that central government should be able effectively to influence the totality of local authority spending, and believe that this can be achieved within the present system," he said.

The letter concludes with a plea that Mr Heseltine and his fellow ministers should "seriously reconsider these policies".

The Bill containing the proposals is to be republished soon after Parliament resumes next week. It has already been delayed because of the Government's decision to switch its introduction from the House of Lords to the Commons.

In its new form it will be shorter than the original Bill because the Government feels the parliamentary timetable is too full to cope with all its 246 clauses. But the financial provisions, which Mr Heseltine considers of the greatest importance, will remain intact.

'Blashers' is back with tales of the jungle

By Craig Seton

Lieutenant-Colonel John Blashford-Snell, probably Britain's busiest and best known explorer, was back home from Papua New Guinea yesterday enthusiastically telling tales of "Stone Age" tribes, giant lizards and steaming jungles encountered on his latest and most ambitious adventure.

"Blashers", as he is nicknamed in the true *Boy's Own* style which characterizes his endless exploits, was reporting on the progress of Operation Drake, a two-year, round-the-world expedition which has passed its halfway stage.

Operation Drake is based on circumnavigation by the 150-ton brigantine. The Eye of the Wind, closely following the route of Sir Francis Drake in the Golden Hind 400 years ago and involving 276 young explorers who participate in stages scientist and Service.

The expedition has just completed an arduous and sometimes dangerous crossing of Papua New Guinea and is moving on to Indonesia.

Colonel Blashford-Snell, now aged 43, has 18 other expeditions to his credit, including the well publicized exploration of the Zaire river and the Blue Nile. He has been in command of all the projects involved in Operation Drake and yesterday at the Ministry of Defence spoke of the increasing difficulties of such a venture.

"It is more difficult to travel now than it was twenty years ago. Frontiers are harder to cross and in many places the natives have thrown away their bows and arrows and have surface-to-air missiles," he said.

During the Papua New Guinea stage the expedition discovered a rich coal seam which could yield up to 50 million tons of coal.

The cost of Operation Drake is being borne by sponsors from commerce, industry, various charities, individuals and the armed services of several countries.

Complaint about Concorde noise report upheld

A newspaper which inaccurately summarized an American report about aircraft noise should have published a correction, the Press Council said in an adjudication published today.

Mrs Mary Littledale, of High Street, Hampton, Middlesex, complained that *The Daily Telegraph*'s summary was misleading because it omitted a salient fact.

The *Daily Telegraph* air correspondent reported that the United States Government accepted that Concorde could operate at Kennedy airport more quietly than slower commercial jets. A Federal Aviation Administration report admitted that while Concorde could make twice the noise of the latest supersonic jet, operating procedures led to fewer overall noise problems and complaints than with other aircraft.

Mrs Littledale told the editor that the statement that there were fewer complaints against Concorde at New York than other aircraft was meaningless. On a per-flight basis the rate of complaint for Concorde was

IN NEXT WEEK'S PAPER.

REVELATIONS.

We're not going to try to predict next week's exclusives.

After all, we didn't know about jury vetting, or sex tests on immigrants, or the 41 railway lines British Rail want to close, until a few hours before we went to press.

But if current form is anything to go by – the cabinet discussion on PWR Nuclear Power Stations, the cabinet argument over employers footing the sick pay bill, the B.R. plan for double fare rises for London commuters – then the exclusives will be there.

ILLUMINATIONS.

Naturally all our major features will be there, shedding just a little more light on things you knew and on topics you're just becoming aware of.

Everything from Honest Bottle, the Arts, Education, Society Tomorrow and Agenda,

to Grassroots, Small Business, In the Gallery, Futures, Parliament and Out of Court.

Plus, of course, Posy, Bryan McAllister and Gibbard, the cartoons that slice up life.

REPUTATIONS.

You've heard of our writers because they're those kind of writers. But just to remind you, Jill Tweedie, Polly Toynbee, Barry Norman, Derek Malcolm, Frank Keating, Carwyn James, Peter Jenkins, John Arlott, James Cameron, Nancy Banks-Smith, Michael Billington, Hamish McRae and Katie Stewart will all be there, refreshing the parts other seers cannot reach.

TRADITIONS.

Wit. Style. Irreverence. They've all been part of The Guardian for 150 years. Next week will be no exception.

THE GUARDIAN

Sea Eagle is new RAF and naval anti-ship missile

By Henry Stanhope Defence Correspondent

The P3T anti-ship missile which is being developed for RAF and Royal Navy aircraft in the mid-1980s will be known as Sea Eagle. It will be fitted to Tornado and Buccaneer aircraft, and to Sea Harriers of the Royal Navy.

Sea Eagle, now under development by British Aerospace Dynamics, a "fire-and-forget" sea-skimming missile which is guided to its target by a combination of computer and radar.

British Aerospace, announcing the weapon's new name yesterday, said its operational performance had been confirmed by a number of flight trials.

Ten hurt in crash

Ten people were taken to hospital yesterday after a crash involving 21 cars in thick fog on the M1 motorway in Northern Ireland. No one was seriously injured. Nine vehicles crashed into each other as they followed diversion signs from the original crash.

over 80 times the rate for other aircraft. She received a routine acknowledgement.

She complained to the Press Council, enclosing two sections of the FAA report which showed that in 12 months there were about 24 complaints per Concorde operation, compared with about 0.03 complaints about noise per operation from other aircraft.

In the editor's response he explained that now he had seen the FAA report he realized the news agency report he used was probably based on an FAA press briefing rather than the FAA report.

The statement that Concorde procedures led to fewer noise problems and complaints than for other aircraft was numerically inaccurate but Mrs Littledale had a point in saying the rate of complaints against Concorde was relatively higher.

The Press Council's adjudication was: The Press Council considers that the story was an inaccurate summary of the Federal Aviation report. And she has been corrected. The complaint against *The Daily Telegraph* is upheld.

HOME NEWS

Newspaper reports of hooliganism often a cause of football violence, psychologists are told

From Frances Gibb,

Sensational press coverage of football hooliganism causes some of the violent behaviour among the team supporters, a conference of educational psychologists at Southampton was told yesterday.

Dr Roger Ingham, a psychology lecturer at Southampton University, who is working on a £1.5m Sports Council project to investigate football hooliganism, said that if all newspapers stopped publishing tomorrow, football hooliganism would be a threat to the substance of local government.

The style of press coverage, particularly in the popular newspapers, had a big effect on events, he told a discussion group at the British Psychological Society conference. "If supporters feel they have a reputation to keep up when they visit a new town, who begin to assume that identity."

A recent match between Southampton and Chelsea was greatly built up by one national and two local newspapers, which all predicted that much trouble would occur, he said.

"Afterwards, the lads said that a lot of Southampton supporters who do not usually carry knives took them to that particular game because they had been told how violent Chelsea was. So the prediction had an effect on the actual game," Dr Ingham said.

The language used in the press often carried connotations that football supporters were mindless thugs or animals. After one

such report there was a case of supporters running through a town saying, "We hate humans", an action lifted from the language of the press, Dr Ingham said.

Other contributory factors were the concentration of the press on crowd behaviour rather than the home, and the quoting of hard-line football managers rather than a spectrum of views.

"All this not only has an effect on events and those involved, but also on public opinion, and helps push people towards the feeling of panic and help, what can we do?"

Nowadays, faced with four supporters wearing team scarves, members of the public tended to keep their distance and be fearful, Dr Ingham said. "And the way the public reacts must eventually have an effect on the fans, who begin to assume that identity."

Dr Ingham, who is editor of a book published in 1978 entitled *Football Hooliganism: The Wild Context*, has been commissioned by the Sports Council to monitor a scheme under which 30 football clubs are trying to involve supporters and local people generally in the life of the club and educate supporters about the damage they can do to a team's reputation.

Results of a survey of seven clubs are expected in 18 months. The conference, attended by nearly 100 psychologists, also heard that the cost of vandalism

Verdict soon on new 'safe waste' process

By John Young

Planning Reporter

Within the next few weeks the Thames Water Authority and Essex County Council are expected to pronounce a verdict on a new waste disposal process. If it meets with their approval, it may have a worldwide effect on land reclamation and the safe dispersal of toxic chemical effluents.

The first stage of the process consists of the conversion of potentially dangerous waste matter, including acids, heavy metals, cyanides and caustic alkalis into a safe, neutralized slurry.

In the second stage, the slurry is taken by tanker and dumped into pits and quarries, where it hardens into an inert and virtually impermeable "plastic rock".

The failure of an urban environment can be measured in direct proportion to the number of playgrounds," he said.

Vast numbers of children in cities were trapped because there was nothing they could afford to do and their whole background and culture prevented them from benefiting from their schools.

Cities really concerned with the needs of the young should find ways of absorbing them, he said.

Teachers had told him of teenage children in Bristol who had never been to their city centre, teenagers in Brent who had never seen the Thames, and children in Lambeth and Southwark who had never crossed the Thames.



A tanker pumping safe slurry, converted from potentially dangerous waste, into an old clay pit near Aveling, Essex. Photograph by Harry Kerr

operating in Japan under licence, and is looking at various sites in Europe. It has also formed an American subsidiary, in which Rio Tinto-Zinc has a 50 per cent holding.

The treatment process absorbs almost every part of the waste, whether liquid, slurry or solid, including even metal containers, and there are no

waste increasingly attractive.

"We do not claim by any means that we can treat everything," he says. "We cannot take oils and solvents except in small quantities, and of course nuclear waste is out of the question. But we reckon we can deal with about 65 per cent, and over the years we will extend our range".

Head cleared of blame for death of truant boy

From Our Correspondent

Nottingham A headmaster was cleared at an inquest in Nottingham yesterday of blame for the death of a pupil aged 14 who shot himself after he was told he was being taken to the head's study the next day.

Mrs Claude Mack, the coroner, said he was calling the headmaster, Mr Barry Ellis, to give him an opportunity to clear his name. He told Mr Ellis:

"You were not in any way involved with this. You have been put in a somewhat ridiculous and worrying position."

Raymond Parker, of Robin Hood Avenue, Warsop, near Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, shot himself through the head with his father's .22 rifle on December 13. Mrs Jean Parker, his mother, told the coroner that she had been suspicious for some days that the boy, an only child, had been playing truant.

A verdict of suicide while the balance of his mind was disturbed was recorded.

Mrs Parker said she telephoned to the Meden comprehensive school, at Warsop, and the school secretary said that her son had not been to school for a week. That night he admitted playing truant. Mrs

Parker said she told her son: "You will have to see the headmaster in the morning".

The boy went upstairs but came down later and said: "Mum, have I really got to see the headmaster?" She told him she was taking him herself, and he seemed upset. A few minutes later he shouted from upstairs and she found him slumped beside his bed with blood pouring from his throat.

He said: "Look what I have done mom. I have shot myself." His last words were: "I feel funny". He died a few minutes after arriving at hospital, without regaining consciousness.

The headmaster told the hearing that the boy was not a problem child. He added: "On no occasion has Raymond been subjected to corporal punishment."

Earlier, the boy's father said that his son was afraid of being caned. A magistrate, David Amos, said: "I accepted the punishment book and established that Raymond had never been caned before. He had nothing fear at school except the normal punishment for playing truant."

The boy had become upset after his teenage girl friend moved to live in Skegness

Closer education links wanted for 16-19 group

By Our Education Correspondent

The present system of financial support for students aged 16 to 19 is "haphazard, discriminatory and totally unsatisfactory", the National Union of Teachers says in a discussion document on the education and training for that age group, published today.

The call for the harmonizing of the grants available from the Manpower Services Commission, educational maintenance awards from local authorities, and unemployment and social security benefits to ensure that the financial arrangements encourage rather than inhibit young people from obtaining further education and training.

The union calls for the provision of a coherent framework of education and training services for the age group. Agencies such as industrial training boards, the Training Services Agency, and the Youth Opportunities Programme area boards had proliferated without proper coordinating machinery or the involvement of teachers' associations, it says.

The union believed that many more young people would participate in education and training if the Government, local education authorities, training boards and other agencies mounted "a systematic assault on all the impediments—institutional, attitudinal and financial—that conspire to prevent young people from obtaining access to education and training."

Although a strong supporter of sixth forms in schools, the union recognized the merits of sixth form or tertiary colleges. It wanted much closer cooperation between all kinds of institutions providing for 16 to 19 year olds.

It believed that the continuing existence of separate regulations for schools and further education colleges hindered the creation of the radical and flexible approach that was needed.

Former vicar assaulted boy

Magistrates at Callington, Cornwall, were told yesterday that the Rev Peter Cranch, aged 32, a bachelor, assaulted a boy of 14 during a camping holiday near Callington last October.

Mr Cranch, former Vicar of Christ Church, Torquay, Devon, was fined £500 with £50 costs after admitting indecently assaulting the boy.

The young bear the brunt of unemployment

By Our Labour Staff

A high level of unemployment is likely to lead to a "bitter and alienated" younger generation according to Youth Aid, a pressure group concerned with youth unemployment.

In an introduction to the group's annual report, Clare Short, the group's director, said: "The present generation of adult workers grew up in a climate of full employment and an expanding welfare state."

"Unemployment is already intolerably high and will inevitably get worse, with little thought being given to its likely consequences."

The report suggests that the country's tolerance of current unemployment levels is partly due to the fact that young people are bearing the brunt.

It says that at the beginning of last year the unemployment rate among people under 25 was 10.4 per cent, while the rate among people aged between 35 and 44 was 3.6 per cent.

"We are also extremely alarmed to read of current rumours of a threat to the level of unemployment benefit. It is hard to believe that any government could be so callous as to increase unemployment as a deliberate act of policy and at the same time cut benefits to the victims of that policy."

"We can only appeal to the Government to reconsider such a cruel and unjust proposal," the report says.

Fee of £30 a day urged for heavy lorries in London

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

Owners of heavy lorries should be made to pay up to £30 a day for them to travel in Greater London, and should generally pay £3,000 to £5,000 more in tax for each lorry over the next three years, the Campaign against the Lorry Menace (Calm) suggests in its evidence to the Armitage inquiry into lorries and the environment.

Lorries have been subsidized through rates and taxes and the heavier lorries subsidized by the smaller ones, argues Calm, an environmental umbrella group.

Its evidence also suggests six-monthly MOT tests of lorries; extensive bans at night (possibly by whole towns and cities) on lorries of more than 16 tons; and resistance to European Economic Community moves towards greater lorry weights.

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HOME NEWS

Fuel-laden jets near crash likely to boost call for curbs

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

A Boeing 707 airliner laden with 58 tons of fuel went through the boundary hedge while taking off from Luton airport, Bristol, crossed a main road at between 5 and 10ft, and caused damage worth £5,000 to the airport's approach-lighting system.

The incident, which was not a serious accident, is recorded in a bulletin published yesterday by the accidents investigation branch of the Department of Trade, and is bound to bring calls for tighter controls on flights from British airports.

Alarm was expressed yesterday that a large transport aircraft can be allowed to leave without any checks being made on its weight and condition.

An official of Bristol corporation, owners of the airport, told me: "The responsibility for taking off is entirely that of the pilot under the Air Navigation Order."

The Department of Trade said: "We have had a great deal of difficulty in tracking down both the owners and the crew of this aircraft." According to the accident investigation department report, it had a Zaire registration, but the report ends by saying: "There appears to be some doubt about the authenticity of the Zaire registration."

The aircraft arrived at Luton

Transformed quarry wins world award

From Ronald Faux
Glasgow

A derelict quarry at Kilsyth, central Scotland, which has been restored as a recreation area, has won one of the world's premier landscaping awards.

Until last year Auchinstarry quarry was waterlogged, having been abandoned 10 years ago when work on a whinstone cliff ceased.

Under the land renewal programme financed by the Scottish Development Agency, the landscaping company of EFG (New Lands), Glasgow, moved in. In four months it transformed 151 acres into pleasant countryside, with a sandy beach, a trout-stocked lake, and cliffs for trained rock climbers.

The scheme, which cost £141,000, was one of 300 entries for awards made by the Associated Landscape Contractors of America, and received a special judges' award. It was the first time the prize had been given outside America, according to Mr Norman Wilson, managing director of EFG.

A million gallons of water has been drained from the quarry, and fish have been transferred to the Forth-Clyde canal. The lake bed has been reshaped and the quarry face, 90ft high, stabilized. A freshwater lagoon was formed with an island in the middle, and the area was completely revived.

Mr Alastair Gilchrist, head of land renewal for SDA, said the area had many uses for fishermen, rock climbers, canoeists, and people who liked to admire a very pleasant view. The SDA, in four years since it was formed, has spent £76m on the Scottish environment.

Architecture report

VAT may be stopping vital repairs to historic houses

By Charles McKean
Architectural Correspondent

There are good reasons for fearing for the future of our buildings stock. The cost of new building, combined with the introduction of new techniques and the use of increasingly cheap and mean materials, is so low, and the rate of rehabilitation so poor that there is little hope that within a decade there will be a new generation of houses in the state the old slums were in in the 1950s.

This is not a question of engineering or social policy. It is a matter of more insidious factors than politics: the weather, the energy crisis, the very hot summer and the very cold winter, and natural decay.

Buildings have seasons, like life during which they need to be maintained but after which, as surely as the sun rises and sets, they will need substantial repair. And in the vast estates of speculatively built inter-war houses are coming to the end of their first wind.

However well maintained, the 1930s houses are soon to find the replacement of rotten wood, particularly in windows and doors; the rebuilding of the chimney stack; repairs to gutters and re-painting of the outside walls.

The aggregated costs of such works might be, say, £2,500 for the inter-war house, £4,500 for the 1910 house, and perhaps £6,000 for a house of the early 1900s. Houses with particular difficulties of poor maintenance, multi-occupation or vandalism will have considerably increases in the cost of works.

Against those figures the housing "societies" statistics that there is a high chance that a pre-war house will be bought by a second buyer. Add to that the results of a recent Shelter survey in Birmingham showing that one council mortgagor in six was in trouble.

Another reason for the high cost of works is that first-time buyers had not taken into their financial calculations the cost of furnishing and fitting the new dwelling (assessed at about £1,500 per square yard). Two words, how likely is it that first-time buyers will, in addition to fitting out their

WEST EUROPE

Spain faces difficulties in EEC, report says

Brussels, Jan 10.—Spanish industry will face more difficulties in adapting to the European Community than EEC companies will have in increasing their presence in Spain, according to an independent research report.

No copies of a fuel flight plan, load sheet or technical log were deposited with any ground service agency. It was not possible, therefore, to establish any details as regards the aircraft's take-off weight", the report says.

Watchers in the control tower saw the 707 become airborne just before the end of the paved runway. By that time one of them had pressed a switch to turn traffic lights on the A38 road running alongside the airport perimeter to red.

A piece of the aircraft's trailing edge flap broke away in flight, the hedge and the landing lights.

The flight was advised of the occurrence immediately by Bristol tower and later, by London air traffic control, that pieces of honeycomb structure had been found by the airport authorities.

"The crew acknowledged this information, but stated they would continue with their flight to Kuwait, where the aircraft landed without incident. At Kuwait the crew carried out their own repairs to the flaps and they later departed for Bombay."

The aircraft arrived at Lu-

International Carmen irks the French

From Our Own Correspondent
Edinburgh

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M Barre unrepentant over budget tactics

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 10

The cascade of Government motions of confidence, countered by forlorn Opposition motions of censure, is continuing in the French National Assembly according to the prescribed ritual.

The Communist and Socialist motions on the revenue part of the 1980 budget were put to the vote after the lawful 24-hour delay and were predictably defeated. M Raymond Barre, just as predictably, resorted to Article 49 of the Constitution for the eighth time since last November, to gain approval of the expenditure part of the budget and of the whole text.

Another 24-hour delay will supervene before tomorrow's voting on two more Opposition motions. They will also be lost, as the Gaullists will not support it.

M Barre insisted he would do everything to prevent the Article 49 clause from falling into disuse because it was essential—the election of the President of the Republic by direct universal suffrage and his right of dissolution—to the functioning of the country's institutions.

His successors, he said, would be grateful to him for doing so, because they would have to confront, not a dominant political group as in the heyday of Gaulle, but a pluralist majorities, which would make this weapon indispensable if France were not to revert to dominance by parties and unstable coalitions in the past.

"The truth is that the majority exists", M Barre continued. "The proof is that there is a Government and a Prime Minister. It is quite normal that in a pluralist majority there can be a different and we shall try to smooth them out by consultation.

The Prime Minister ended by saying to the Opposition leaders: "Things are better than you say".

It will have taken six applications of Article 49 by the Government and 14 motions of censure by the Opposition since Christmas to get the 1980 budget through Parliament on the second round. There has been no discussion, save by Opposition members, and no hearing of reporters from the different commissions.

This absence of debate and the approval of important bills without a vote is an unhealthy situation which discredits Parliament, the Prime Minister argues, that he is not responsible for this state of affairs, which has been forced on him by the Gaullist party.

Provincial police chief shot dead in Basque country

From Harry Debello
Madrid, Jan 10

The smouldering war in the Basque country flared up today with the first assassination of a member of a provincial, as distinct from national or municipal, police force in the newly autonomous region.

Major Jesus Maria Velasco Zuazo, the chief of police in the Basque town of Alava, whose chief is in the city of Vitoria on his way to work and only 100 yards from the school where he had just dropped off his two young daughters. Members of the secessionist terrorist organization ETA are believed to be responsible for the murder.

There is the redistribution of the window tax on all buildings. Not only would that end the discrimination between repairs and maintenance on one hand and new building on the other, but also it is indiscriminate on the condition of the building.



Watchful riot policemen going to the aid of wounded comrades shot in Ajaccio.

Call for general strike after Corsica deaths

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, January 10

The occupation of an hotel in Ajaccio by Corsican nationalists degenerated in the course of last night into bloodshed.

The nationalists have been shot dead, a riot policeman, a young woman and a young man. Five other persons, including two riot police, have been injured, three of them seriously.

Today the hotel was still occupied by about 30 separatists who were holding 10 hotel guests as hostages. The area around the hotel continues to be sealed off by riot police, and reinforcements of gendarmerie have been sent out from Bordeaux.

The riot policeman was shot in cold blood about 11pm last night by a young man who stepped out of a group of 20 persons exchanging insults with police across a barrier near the prefecture. He drew a pistol and fired his first shot at a policeman instantly. Further shots injured two others.

The young woman was shot dead near the citadel, as she drove past a group of riot police. A woman beside her in the car was seriously injured. The police admitted they had fired too quickly. The young

man was shot at the other end of the town, apparently while trying to force his way past a police barrier.

Although it is late in the day to talk of mediation and negotiation, and the Government, in the person of M Christian Bonnet, Minister of the Interior, has firmly rejected both, the Bishop of Ajaccio and the mayor each spent several hours at the prefecture attempting to find a peaceful way out of the situation.

About 300 students of the Lycée Fesch staged a silent sit-down this morning in front of the prefecture. At a joint meeting 21 political and trade union organizations decided to call for a general strike throughout Corsica. Among their demands are a stay to all judicial proceedings, the prosecution of members of anti-autonomist groups (who were the starting point of the whole tragic train of events), and the immediate opening of negotiations.

In Paris the Socialist Party has tabled a written question to the Prime Minister in the National Assembly on the events in Corsica, and criticized the refusal of the Prefect of Ajaccio to allow a delegation of local

personalities to seek a peaceful solution.

The Communists demand the withdrawal of "all forces of repression", and condemn the Government's refusal to tackle the real problems in Corsica.

The CFDT trade union organization considers that the Government has "a grave responsibility in the constant deterioration of the situation".

M Bonnet, the Minister of the Interior, emphasized in a television broadcast that there

would never be any negotiations with kidnappers who are common criminals.

Justice would be equal for all, including the police who killed the young man and young woman, if it were established that they were guilty of a misde

proposal. "To respect legality is to save many lives tomorrow."

Twelve out of 28 persons detained by the police in various parts of southern Corsica since last Sunday have been transferred to Paris and will be charged before the Court for State Security. However, the Prefect of Southern Corsica told a press conference that he had set free five of the 21 persons detained by the police at the village of Bastelicca.

"We hope reason will prevail", he said. "That is why we have allowed access to the hotel by persons who want to try to find a solution, in the same way as we have allowed food to be sent to the occupants of the hotel."

M Raymond Barre, the Prime Minister, said in Paris today that he did not think that there were any "trends towards autonomy" in France. "There can be some itch for autonomy, but French regions and provinces are attached to national unity".

He added, however, that "it will be necessary in coming years to increase the deconcentration of responsibilities and the decentralization of decisions".

OVERSEAS

Sectarian challenge to regime in Syria

From A Special Correspondent
Aleppo

Shots ring out distantly in the late afternoon. Nobody seems much concerned residents of this northern Syrian border city of one million people say that it is almost a daily occurrence. Later, we learn that an army officer and a secret-service man have been killed that same morning. Presumably the afternoon shots were some kind of retaliation.

In the evening the streets fall silent early, and only the lounging forms of secret-service men are to be seen at key street corners.

Here in the cities of northern Syria—traditionally the breeding ground of opposition movements—adherents of the regime of President Assad seem to be living on their nerves.

In June last autumn of the extreme right-wing Muslim Brotherhood moved down in cold blood about 50 officers cadets attending classes at the artillery college near here. Since then, killings and counter-killing have continued.

But loyalists of Mr Assad's Ba'ath Party and its extensive secret-service organizations headed by its leaders are at a disadvantage. The gunmen of the Brotherhood—often young men who received their military training in the Syrian Army under the conscription scheme—seem to be able to disappear without trace into Syria's extensive urban population.

A recent incident in the capital, Damascus, illustrates why. There, the protocol chief at the Presidential guard's residence received a lush new flat after his son identified some Brotherhood members who had been hit-men to the police. Only weeks later, as the protocol chief rode home from work in a full 40-seater bus, a man behind him asked: "How is the new flat?"—and fired two bullets into his head.

None of the other bus passengers was able to remember the appearance of the killer, who had calmly walked away.

Here in Aleppo, one trader told me that there are whole areas of the city the secret service dared not enter at all.

He recalled recently seeing a Brotherhood supporter openly handing out leaflets in the city's sprawling market. When a single secret-service man approached, the leafleteer pressed a copy of the leaflet on him, telling him to take it and read its lesson to his masters and this in a highly centralized state where the Brotherhood has been outlawed since 1963.

The Brotherhood's main message is one of sectarian dissatisfaction. Its supporters are members of the majority Sunni community who resent the domination in power of President Assad's own Alawite Muslim sect, which accounts for barely 11 per cent of the Syrian population.

Not far from the city centre, members of Aleppo's thriving Christian population are building a magnificient new cathedral. Not to be outdone, the Sunnis are rushing up a mosque right opposite, with the minaret just topping the cathedral's spire.

Opposition to the Assad regime seems much wider than mere Sunni dissatisfaction. Government economic and foreign policies also come in for their share of the criticism which is openly voiced here.

The owner of a small plastics factory complains that government disputes with other Arab regimes have cut his markets drastically, while competition from the state sector in home markets has forced him to halve his workforce in recent months.

A leftist student asks rhetorically how the people can be expected to "face up to the Camp David conspiracy" (a common government slogan), when they still have to wait in line for the unleavened bread which is the staple of their daily diet?

A disaffected civil servant says the Muslim Brotherhood could sweep to power if it only presented some political platform in addition to its sectarian districts.

The other main strong of the opposition is the left, which in Syria shows the clear signs of years of secret-service and police intervention. It is split and weak, although it is making an attempt to revive.

For the moment most leftists seem to support the Brotherhood against the regime. "The important thing is to topple this Government", one leftist explained. "Then we will see what happens." Comparisons with relations between the left and the ayatollahs in Iran are frequent.

But Mr Assad is no Shab. Indeed, his relations with the ayatollahs are excellent. And his decade in power to date has shown him to be an adept political operator.

Hongkong faces growth in illegal video recordings

Hongkong, Jan 10.—Authorities here have almost closed a massive trade in pirate records and tapes, but now face a new threat from illegal video cassette recordings, officials said today.

In the mid-1970s, Hongkong was a centre for illegal recordings, which broke copyright laws.

A spokesman for the customs copyright protection unit said: "Reports have already been received from Interpol of illegal video cassettes made in Hongkong, being found abroad.

He added that although this industry was still in its infancy it would become a big problem when video recorders became cheaper.—Reuter.

OVERSEAS

Sandbag defences in Tabriz as troops seal off radio station

Tabriz, Jan 10.—Troops today sealed off access roads to the hilltop radio station in this north-western city where fierce clashes occurred yesterday between rival supporters of Iran's two senior ayatollahs in which eight people were killed and more than 100 wounded.

The troops placed sandbags at strategic points to defend the Government-held station against any renewed attack by followers of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari, the local religious leader.

Despite appeals for calm from the Ayatollah, his supporters were involved in a day-long battles yesterday with Revolutionary Guards and supporters of Ayatollah Khomeini, the revolutionary leader.

There was heavy shooting near the radio station yesterday as supporters of Ayatollah Shariat-Madari tried to capture it for the third time in a month. In the town centre masked gunmen of the opposition Muslim People's Republican Party (MPRP) dug in behind sandbags in front of their party headquarters, pelted by bullets during yesterday's fighting.

Its defenders have renamed the building "Bastion of the people" after Ayatollah Shariat-Madari's statement last week that the MPRP was now defunct and that he would not support it if it resumed its activities.

Several hundred people stood outside the headquarters in freezing temperatures today.

Ayatollah Shariat-Madari's Turkish-speaking followers in Tabriz and the rest of East Azerbaijan province are seeking the removal of Government-appointed local officials and demanding greater autonomy.

They also support Ayatollah Shariat-Madari's opposition to Iran's Islamic constitution, which has given wide powers to Ayatollah Khomeini.

Sources in the holy city of Qom said that the two ayatollahs, together with two other ayatollahs, were likely to have a meeting on the Tabriz situation within the next 48 hours.

Representatives of liberation movements holding a conference in Tehran went to Qom today to visit Ayatollah Khomeini. They included Mr Abu Jilbab of the Palestine Liberation Organization and second in command in Yassir Arafat's Fatah organization.

They were accompanied by a group of the students who have been holding the American hostages at the United States embassy here for 68 days. The students sponsored and organized the liberation movement conference.

Dr Waldheim criticized: Princess Ashraf Pahlavi, twin sister of the deposed Shah of Iran, today criticized Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General for his recent criticism of her brother's rule.

In her first public reaction to Dr Waldheim's turbulent three-day trip to Iran last week, she said: "As a former delegate to the United Nations, I must express my dismay at

Secretary-General Waldheim's recent comments."

Princess Ashraf said she was surprised by Dr Waldheim's statements about alleged human rights violations in Iran under the Shah and added: "Why has he waited so long to voice his criticism?"

In a press release, she said Dr Waldheim, "by his current course of action, has ignored the real problem, the real violation of human rights: the imprisonment of 50 innocent Americans by militants in Tehran".

The Princess, who was an Iranian delegate to the United Nations for 10 years, and Dr Waldheim had never complained about abuse of human rights on the numerous occasions that they met. "Was Dr Waldheim sincere in his praise of the Shah, his government and me?" her statement said.

Noting that Iran under the Shah was a founding member of the United Nations, she added: "Secretary-General Waldheim appears to view the Shah's government today as an abomination."

Princess Ashraf said that through a "Naz-like propaganda campaign... of lies and more lies, the current regime is trying to bring the world to its knees."

Dr Waldheim should have asked more questions about the mutilated people who were "paraded" before him by Iran's revolutionary rulers as alleged victims of the Shah's forces.

"The people of the world cannot continue to be duped by cheap public relations stories. For all we know, many of these people could be victims of acidists, terrorists or people with birth defects."

During his visit, Dr Waldheim promised a group of Iranians that he would press for a United Nations inquiry into abuses that are alleged to have taken place under the Shah.

He was not allowed to see Ayatollah Khomeini, who commands the allegiance of the military who have held the United States embassy in Tehran since November 4; neither did he meet any of the American hostages during his stay.

The Princess asked Dr Waldheim why he listened to the so-called grievances of the Khomeini regime while continuing to ignore the families of more than 600 Iranians who were summarily executed without fair trials, and the countless unknown victims who have suffered a similar fate. What about their human rights and their grievances?

The statement, released by Mr Richard Armano, a spokesman in New York of the Pahlavi Family added: "Does Dr Waldheim really hope that by falsely condemning the Pahlavis he will curry favor with the current regime? Is he so naive to believe that by swallowing the current regime's lies, their terrorist acts will stop? If he does, the world as well as the United Nations is in serious trouble."—Reuter.

Lesotho's cooler relations with South Africa put 771 in wired-off limbo

From Eric Marsden

Johannesburg, Jan 10.—On the outskirts of the Orange Free State town of Bethlehem, 771 exiles from the mountainous kingdom of Lesotho are living in tents in a fenced-off compound, unhappy and uncertain of their future, which depends on the outcome of a diplomatic struggle between South Africa, Lesotho and the United Nations.

The exodus from villages in the Buthe-Buthe district of Northern Lesotho began at the end of November after reports of conflict there between militants of the outlawed opposition group, the Basutoland Congress Party (BCP), and the Government's paramilitary police.

By Christmas about 500 people had fled across the Caledon river into South Africa. A steady trickle has continued and the Bethlehem camp now holds 109 men, 244 women and 418 children.

South Africa regards the exiles as refugees and last month Mr R. F. Botha, the Foreign Minister, asked for help from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. At present they are being received by the Orange-Vaal administration and have received gifts of clothing from firms and individuals in the Free State.

The Lesotho Government refuses to regard them as refugees and to call on them to return. It alleges that many were abducted by BCP militants and forced to cross the river, where they were put in fortresses and driven to Bethlehem under South African police escort. This is denied by South African officials who also reject the allegation of collusion with the rebels.

Lesotho, a land-locked nation with a population of 1,300,000, which is economically dependent on South Africa, has, until recently, enjoyed Pretoria's support in spite of frequent attacks on apartheid by Chief Leabua Jonathan, its Prime Minister.

Mr C. D. Molapo, Lesotho's Foreign Minister, has disclosed that on December 31 he wrote to the United Nations saying that their High Commission for Refugees should have sent an observer to visit the people in the Bethlehem camp. He claimed that the South African Red Cross, which was looking after them, was not unbiased.

The Lesotho police has accused the BCP of kidnapping 197 families from the Buthe-Buthe area. It said a census by chiefs

had shown that 263 families had left the area since the end of November, but 66 of these were known to be in the Qwaqwa block homeland.

It is difficult to judge the conflicting allegations because of obstacles in both countries. At Bethlehem the exiles are kept in their fenced compound and, for security reasons, are not allowed into the town. Nor are journalists allowed to talk to them, except in the presence of one senior white official who is only occasionally available. There is a police guard on the camp.

In Lesotho, journalists who have driven to Buthe-Buthe have been turned back from the frontier villages, having been told that they were in an operational area.

Mr Rakhetla claimed the man

behind the unrest in Buthe-Buthe was Mr Ntsu Mokhele, the outlawed leader of the BCP who is believed to live in Zambia. He alleged that Mr Mokhele had been seen by Lesotho agents entering the central police station in Johannesburg and having meals with South African officials in Pretoria: "We are certain he is in collusion with South Africa".

He added that there had been a change of policy by Pretoria toward the Government of Chief Jonathan, the South Africans being surprised when Lesotho began to establish diplomatic relations with socialist countries, by its refusal to recognize Transkei's independence and its allegations of the killing of Basotho people in South Africa.

It had switched its support to Mr Mokhele, he claimed, and was "phoning for revolution in Lesotho". Some of the explosives being used by the rebels were believed to have come from mines in South Africa.

The rebels also had Russian-made equipment, "captured from Swapo and the Patriotic Front and passed to Mokhele's Front to give a false impression of Russian aid".

The political background to the strife is that Mr Mokhele's Basutoland Congress Party defeated Chief Jonathan's party in two elections out of three before independence. It was also reported to be leading in the first post-independence election in 1970 when Chief Jonathan suspended the constitution, arrested Mr Mokhele and ruled by decree for three years.

The Prime Minister is now confident he can win another election and recently announced that he plans to hold one but without giving a date.



Mrs Jean Casselman Wadds, the new Canadian High Commissioner, who arrived in London yesterday, with her deputy, Mr C. Hardy.

Only two Russians remain at Aswan

From Christopher Walker
Aswan, Jan 10

Ironically for a summit meeting overshadowed by the Soviet threat in the Middle East, the latest series of talks between President Sadat of Egypt and Mr Menachem Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, is taking place almost literally in the shadow of the greatest monument to Soviet-Egyptian cooperation, the Sad al-Ah or High Dam of Aswan.

Representatives of liberation movements holding a conference in Tehran went to Aswan today to visit Ayatollah Khomeini. They included Mr Abu Jilbab of the Palestine Liberation Organization and second in command in Yassir Arafat's Fatah organization.

They were accompanied by a group of the students who have been holding the American hostages at the United States embassy here for 68 days. The students sponsored and organized the liberation movement conference.

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China's purged head of state back in favour

Peking, Jan 10.—Liu Shaoqi (Liu Shao-chi), China's former head of state purged during the Cultural Revolution, was prominently referred to as "comrade" in the official press today, a sign that his posthumous rehabilitation may be announced soon.

The rehabilitation of Liu, previously accused of being pro-Soviet, is seen as one of a series of measures aimed at negotiating the effects of the Cultural Revolution. It has been expected for more than a year.

Today's report said his portrait had been hung alongside other leaders at an exhibition in south-west China. The exhibition, at the town of Zunyi, had been organized to commemorate the forty-fifth anniversary this week of an historic Politburo meeting there in 1935 which elected Mao as party Chairman.

The report quoted visitors to the exhibition as saying that it reflected the history of the party honestly and in line with the original facts.

Liu's photograph reappeared in museums for the first time last autumn.—Reuter.

In which the party aimed to set up offices in every town, village and mining compound.

By explanation and persuasion, we must educate people to forget about the past and work together to achieve a united Zimbabwe," Mrs Mugabe said. "I hope in doing so we shall be able to relax the minds of many people who have been affected in one way or another.

Members of the Zanu delegation said they also needed funds for the election campaign

in which the party aimed to set up offices in every town, village and mining compound.

Although the ceasefire has now been in operation for a week and shows increasing signs of being effective, they are continuing to take all the precautions against ambush or attack which they had got used to adopting during the past seven years of war.

They do not move away from their homes without a gun in their hands. They do not travel on the thin ribbon of road which connects them with Bindura, the nearest sizable town, after 4 pm. They still spend the nights sheltering behind their security fences with a rifle by their bedside.

Work on rebuilding their burned out houses has still not been completed and the workers have been living in one of Mr Taff's barns for the past four months.

"Amazingly only about six of my workers decided to leave after that incident," he said.

Mr Taff's farm lies alongside the Chivhuwa tribal trust land.

On some evenings the guerrillas would light a beacon on top of one of the hills there as a marker for their colleagues moving in from across the Mozambique border, 30 miles away. "This has been one of the most active areas in the country, and I am certainly not going to relax until I see which way things go after the elections."

In fact there has been virtually no guerrilla activity in the area since the ceasefire started being implemented three weeks ago.

Zanu seeks election funds in Europe

From Our Correspondent
Geneva, Jan 10

A delegation of the Zimbabwe African National Union, with Mrs Sally Mugabe—wife of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zanu leader—among its members, began a European tour today with an appeal for £50m needed for development and resettlement programmes in Southern Rhodesia.

Members of the Zanu delegation said they also needed funds for the election campaign

Zanu and Mr Joshua Nkomo's Zulu co-operating on the political side. He and his colleagues were critical of Lord Soames, the Governor of Southern Rhodesia, for permitting South African troops to remain in the country. If the Lancaster House agreement collapsed, the British would be blamed, he said.

"There are a few things to be tidied up in Maputo, Mozambique, before we go to Salisbury."

On January 1st, 1980 Iveco (UK) Limited was created.

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Fiat, OM, Lancia, Unic and Magirus Deutz united to form Iveco.

Together they represent 350 years of manufacturing experience.

Working as one to broaden their research, they produce a highly specialized range of trucks and buses that are above all safe, reliable and economical to run.

Truly a sharing of traditions, resources and technological know-how.

And an international dealer network with years of experience working alongside hauliers.

Now in Great Britain

On January 1st, 1980, Iveco (UK) Limited was created from Fiat Commercial Vehicles Limited and Magirus-Deutz (Great Britain) Limited.

This further move enables Iveco to reinforce its position in the U.K.

The trucks and networks of both Fiat and Magirus-Deutz will thus get a stronger support: greater efficiency, better service and better availability of spare parts.

From now on, running Fiat and Magirus-Deutz trucks will be easier still for you, with Iveco's broadened organisation behind you.

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FIAT TRUCKS

MAGIRUS DEUTZ

AFGHANISTAN

Five resistance groups agree only on being anti-communist

From Ian Murray

Peshawar, Jan 10
While observers say that up to 60 different groups are fighting against the Soviet troops in Afghanistan, there are basically only five large organizations. They all have their spokesmen in this old garrison town.

The five groups range from fanatical Muslims who would feel more at home in the Iran of the Ayatollah Khomeini to the moderate Muslims who are prepared to agree to a new constitution for a new Afghanistan which would include opposition parties.

They all want an Islamic new country and the one thing they all agree they would ban is any form of Communism.

It is their united stand against communists in general, and Russians in particular, which classes them as allies. In many respects, in the best Afghan tradition, they are deadly enemies.

As talking to their leaders, their stories appear very similar. They all seem to have grown up after the arrival of President Taraki in power in April, 1978. It was then that the trickle of refugees began to arrive in Pakistan—a trickle which has become a torrent—and it was then that the different groups of dissidents began to organize in dissidents.

Afghans are historically inclined to rebel against outside authority, as the British discovered to their cost in three wars. Indeed, it is the successes they scored against the British a century ago which leads today's Afghan to believe that even the Russian superpower is not invincible.

Added to this is the fact that confidence in the Soviet Union is waning. The Soviets declared the fight against the Soviet Union a holy war. This means that anyone who kills a Russian is meant to be elevated to the highest estate of Islam and anyone killed in fighting becomes a martyr saint. Asimullah Mojadeddi, son of the leader of the Afghanistan National Liberation Front, puts it like this: "For us there is nothing left except to fight. We will fight on until only one Afghan is left, until the last drop of our blood has dried. We shall show the Russians how big a mistake they have made in taking over our country. We have never been conquered as a nation."

"Maybe we will not succeed, but we believe that the international defeat of the Russians will start in Afghanistan."

Sayed Hussain Gailani,

Appointments Vacant also on page 20

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND ELECTRONICS NCR CHAIR OF ELECTRONICS AND MICROCOMPUTER SYSTEMS

The University, in conjunction with NCR Limited, has established a Chair in Electronics and Microcomputer Systems, the holder of which will direct a newly established Central Microprocessing Unit. The Unit will contain a range of equipment to assist in the development of post-graduate research and the Professor of Electronics and Microcomputer Systems will have the overall responsibility of coordinating and all major research activities and developments in the University. The Unit will be supported by its own technical, research and secretarial staff.

The Chair will be held in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Electronics, in which teaching is given in Electronics and Microcomputing Systems leading to Honours and Postgraduate degrees. The Professor will be expected to assist in the further development of the teaching and research in electronics and in Microcomputer systems.

It is also anticipated that the Professor will co-operate with local industry in promoting teaching and industrial development.

The Department currently has one Chair, the Watson-Watt Chair of Electrical Engineering, the holder of which is Professor B. Makin, present Head of the Department.

The post will be remunerated within the professional range for universities, the successful applicant being required to quote USS system. If not a member of this or the FSSU scheme, further particulars may be obtained from the Secretary, The University, Dundee DD1 4EN with whom ten copies of an application should be lodged by 16 February, 1980. Please quote Reference EST/99/79C.

UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE DEPARTMENT OF ORTHOPAEDIC & TRAUMATIC SURGERY

Applications are invited for the post of

SENIOR LECTURER

In the above Department, there will be an associated honorary appointment with the Tayside Health Board. For an appropriately qualified candidate this will be at Consultant level. There will be ample opportunities for the successful applicant to develop their special interest. There is already an established research programme in human locomotion with facilities available for research throughout the field of orthopaedic surgery. Other research areas can be developed in line with the Senior Lecturer's special interest. Applications may visit the University and related hospitals by contacting Professor George Murdoch (telephone Dundee (0822) 22603, or Dundee 2312, Ext. 171).

Salary Scale (Consultant Status), £11,211 to £14,239.

Supervision under USS or continuation of existing FSSU or NHS arrangements. Grant towards removal expenses to be negotiated.

Applications (14 copies) quoting Reference EST/102/79C and containing the names of three referees should be sent by 1st Feb., 1980, to The Secretary, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN; from whom Further Particulars can be obtained.

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Polytechnic of the South Bank

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS STUDIES

PRINCIPAL LECTURER (REF BS.7)

The main duties of this post are to organize in-house training schemes for students on the B.A. Honours Business Studies and the B.E.C. Higher National Diploma.

The post requires a graduate, preferably in Applied Psychology, with good administrative, organisational and industrial experience. A minimum of three years is highly desirable.

Further particulars and application forms from:

The Secretary, Polytechnic of the South Bank, London SE1 4AA.

PRIVATE SCHOOL IN STAMFORD HILL, PRIVATE TUTORING INSTRUCTION. Interviews—Phone Ann 6162 or evenings 8-9 and weekends 800 6034. Ref. No. 1714.

Mr Carter is chasing votes, Pravada says

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Jan 10

nephew of the founder of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, a field commander out of a few days leave. "Now we are fighting the superpower we are more united. We are fighting for Islam and against the foreign invader."

According to him, the whole philosophy of the war had changed since the Soviet intervention. Spiritually and psychologically the people were more united. Militarily they had changed tactics from a full-scale offensive against the Afghan Army to a guerrilla hit-and-run operation against the Russians.

These military leaders in exile agreed that the big shortage was of bullets. While guns were largely available and some helicopters and operational tanks had even been captured, ordinary cartridges were in short supply.

They were available from local gunsmiths but these bullets were unsafe, inaccurate and liable to give off tell-tale puffs of smoke. To buy proper bullets it was essential to trade with illicit arms dealers working inside the tribal lands which are outside effective Pakistani jurisdiction.

The price of the bullets is increasing almost daily. The normal price being quoted was about 30 rupees (£1.50) for a .303 round. Generally, the cost of weapons is said to have risen 10 times over the past two years.

The money to pay for this is mostly coming, according to the rebel groups, from the Gulf states. It is given either as a donation by the different countries, or as a contribution from expatriate Afghan workers.

Further money, although not much, is raised in the form of a tax from people living in the areas the rebel groups claim to control. These, they say, have their own civilian administration and they claim there are entire districts where no Soviet troops have yet dared to come.

Even so, these rebel leaders seemed realistic enough about their prospects in fighting the Russians to the death. They were resigned to the fact that without international aid they were probably doomed to defeat. Still they would fight on.

"We don't want to give the Russians the impression they are welcome in Afghanistan," said one. "We are fighting against Soviet aggression and we would request the freedom-loving people of the world to come to our assistance."

"We must try to separate them from the local population," he said. "We are fighting for Islam and against the foreign invader."

He added: "The most important thing is to keep him in the White House, Pravda said today.

Commenting on the President's measures announced in response to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, the paper said they worsened the international situation. Frustrated detente, but were nothing to do with the latest developments in Afghanistan. They were a logical result of the downhill slide of the Administration and its surrender to the most reactionary forces in the United States.

The President's "dangerous steps" were directly linked to the presidential elections, the paper's New York correspondent said.

"One cannot help feeling that the direct attack on detente and on Soviet-American relations has been launched not by the President of the United States but by J. Carter, one of the presidential candidates, who played his last trump cards in this vanity fair."

Pravda noted that Americans were now praising President Carter for firmness and leadership. But true firmness was shown not in overtures to right-wing forces or in a painful reaction to every point of a public opinion poll, but in a consistent principled political action.

This is precisely what the Administration is lacking (and lacked before) by making one concession after another to reactionaries.

The article said there was nothing more cynical than the "affected concern" and outcry in the United States over developments in Afghanistan.

Today's commentary is part of the tough Soviet reaction to Mr Carter's moves against the Russians.

But in spite of toughly worded commentaries, the Russians have not yet announced any retaliatory counter-measures against America, and are clearly trying to ride out over-reacting.

The average Russian has a good idea of this outcry from listening to foreign broadcasts. Most people have expressed fears that it will lead to a general tightening up and a cut-off in relations with the West in all fields.

But the scene is deceptive. It was a salutary reminder that the Soviet-backed authorities in Afghanistan cannot even securely control the Khyber Pass, although one could not help noticing that the Afghan Army was still allowed to play an important role in operations.

The soldiers who checked our papers through the pass and manned the small concrete forts beside the gorge were all Afghans. Some of the tanks parked in the mountains outside



Afghan insurgents execute communist: This photograph, received yesterday from the Islamic Party of Afghanistan, bore a caption reading: "Two communist high school teachers arrested in the city of Farah near between Herat and Kandahar."

Deceptive calm in Afghan town

Continued from page 1

armoured personnel carriers had already come up from Jalalabad and cleared most of the blockade.

Tribesmen had fired out of the trees when the first civilian cars had stopped at the road block before dawn. They killed two people and wounded nine others, one in the back and chest. There was still a litter of glass across the highway but no one knew whether the tribesmen were bandits or whether they had mistaken the cars for military vehicles in the dark.

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The soldiers who checked our papers through the pass and manned the small concrete forts beside the gorge were all Afghans. Some of the tanks parked in the mountains outside

Jalalabad were Afghan, too, and only the Afghan Army patrols

the streets of the town.

There have been many reports in Kabul of a great battle in Jalalabad between tribesmen and Soviet troops but the stories are unclear. Not a Russian is to be seen along the crenelated, shady streets of this ancient town where horse-drawn carriages mingle with colonial coaches over dirt roads and shoeless peasant boys beat donkeys loaded with grain down to the little market.

Much more strategically important is that during the night hours, when local people must be off the streets, the Soviet Army has been moving heavy armour through the town.

There are now 1,400 Russian troops with T54 tanks, armoured personnel carriers and tracked vehicles quartered in the Afghan Army barracks three miles west of Jalalabad on the road to Pakistan.

If the tribesmen continue their activities therefore, and if the Afghan Army cannot bring their activities to a halt with new weapons, then the Russians are ready to step in.

There are rumours that the Russians will dislodge the Afghan Army if it fails to keep the peace and that the Soviet forces would then step in to pacify the countryside.

The past six days of explosions have echoed over the town at night and two huge bombs have twice destroyed the

electric grid and transformer carrying power into the town. Jalalabad has had no electricity for five days now.

Many curfews have just been extended from 8 pm until 4 am.

But the passes are more closely guarded these days, and winter snows are certainly snapping many refugees from escaping.

Mr Ali seems resigned to things getting much worse.

So, too, is the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR). It has already earmarked nearly \$10m (£4.5m) up to next September for Afghan refugees, but that figure was decided on when the numbers were only 150,000. Mr Ali believes the UNHCR is sympathetic to the idea of doubling its contribution.

"We must try to separate them from the local population," he says, "especially as we have to accept this problem will be with us now for two or three years and even more."

Mr Ali, who took over the job three months ago, has a long and distinguished career in the Pakistani civil service behind him and he has enough experience to be refreshingly realistic about the task he is trying to do.

"By the time we work out a programme it is out of date

Man with the world's worst refugee problem

From Ian Murray

Peshawar, Jan 10

Mr Shamsheer Ali is a man who has, in his own words, "the dubious honour" of being in charge of the biggest refugee problem in the world. As Afghan refugee commissioner for the North-West Frontier province of Pakistan he is responsible for the welfare of a known 342,076 people, plus a further 40,000 or so who have yet to register.

With 70,000 or more in neighbouring Baluchistan province to the south, Pakistan, one of the poorest countries of the world materially, thus finds itself having to care for a refugee problem which in number alone is bigger than either Kampuchea or Sudan.

The commission offices are in an old single-storey building with a deep verandah dating from the heyday of the Raj. Mr Ali's office is a wood-panelled sanctuary for man with nearly 400,000 human problems to deal with.

The near charts on the wall, showing the growth of the problem since about 14,000 refugees first arrived in April, 1978, to the current sorry figure, are in marked contrast to the unkindness of the problem.

Mr Ali's telephone never seems to stop ringing. Outside on the lawn 30 or more Afghan heads of families, impudicately dressed in traditional dress, complain about their lack of tents. He has to find time to treat the press courteously because he knows only international sympathy can help his country to face up to the problem.

And the problem is growing so quickly that it is difficult to quantify. About 50,000 refugees have come into Pakistan in the past month—welcome slowdown from the 90,000 who arrived in November. But then the passes are more closely guarded these days, and winter snows are certainly snapping many refugees from escaping.

Mr Ali seems resigned to things getting much worse.

But the other political worry is that the fact that many of the refugees come from tribes with feuds against people in the land they are seeking refuge in.

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"We must try to separate them from the local population," he says, "especially as we have to accept this problem will be with us now for two or three years and even more."

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OVERSEAS

Mrs Gandhi urges her followers not to show vindictiveness towards their defeated opponents

From Richard Wigg

Delhi, Jan 10
Hardly more than a year after she was sent to a Delhi jail for contempt of Parliament, Mrs Indira Gandhi was unanimously elected leader here today of her 351-member Congress parliamentary party.

President Sajiva Reddy, the former Janata politician who gave her the final opening for a comeback by calling mid-term elections, responded this evening by asking her to form a new government.

In contrast with the scene in the same central hall of Parliament in March, 1977, when a council of "wise men" headed by the late J. P. Wavaryan awarded the premiership to Mr Morarji Desai, Mrs Gandhi's acclamation came today after and not before the speeches.

There was thus no acceptance speech from her but a possibly significant call to her MPs assembled for the first time, her younger son, Sanjay Gandhi, among them—not to show any vindictiveness in the hour of victory.

With the Janata Government's attempt to bring her to account for the misdeeds of the state of emergency still obviously rankling, Mrs Gandhi said:

"We are not small or petty-minded people. We are not thinking in terms of vendetta or vindictiveness. We are faced with a tremendous task and

we invite the cooperation of everyone."

Mr Gandhi, persuaded by journalists to make a few remarks as he sat about three-quarters of the way back in the hall, said he wanted to concentrate his energies on relieving the country's current shortage of paraffin, diesel oil and sugar.

That conformed well with the image his mother likes to give of him as an essentially practical-minded person. But he added: "And, of course, the law and order situation."

When pressed further that he would want to revive his "five-point programme" launched when he was at the height of his influence during Mrs Gandhi's previous administration and which included family planning, he replied: "We will see."

The Marxists, despite their victories in Bengal and Kerala are not at all satisfied with the outcome overall.

Meanwhile, an analysis by the Press Trust of India of the election results in Uttar Pradesh—with 85 Lok Sabha (Lower House) seats politically the most significant state—shows that if Janata had not split it would still have obtained substantially more popular votes in no less than 70 of the constituencies.

Mrs Gandhi's parliamentary strength, in other words, owes much to what were basically triangular fights in British-style constituencies.

Russians sail into the raising of the Titanic

From Ivor Davis

Pireaus, Jan 10
The captain of the Russian liner the Ukraina brought his ship alongside a berth in Piraeus Harbour yesterday and, port formalities completed, went on deck to take a look at the ancient harbour near Athens. From the bridge his eyes roamed over the cruise liners along side when suddenly he started. Something was terribly wrong.

In the dock not more than 50 yards away lay a strange-looking ship and around it hung a phalanx of American flags, bunting, giant red white and blue roses and a cheering crowd of well-wishers.

New York City policemen paced the quayside and man-hunting patrol cars were everywhere. Two American television network helicopters swooped low over the ship and crowds of American press clambered over the ship's stern as some obviously top American naval brass held a press conference.

In fact, the Athens port was crawling with Americans. Was this finally President Carter's retaliatory move for the invasion of Afghanistan? Should the captain warn the Kremlin?

Before he could act a startled officer raced up. "Comrade captain," he said, "that American ship—it is called the 'Titanic'."

No one knows for sure what the Russians' reactions were but if the skipper and his crew were thoroughly perplexed no one could blame them. They were not to know that the perpetrator of this American seizure of Piraeus was not Jimmy Carter of Washington, DC, but Lord Lew Grade of London.

It was a piece of pure Hollywood. As the Russians had dropped anchor the cast and crew of Lord Grade's \$35m epic *Raise the Titanic*, three years in the making, descended on the harbour to shoot the scene of the arrival in New York of the newly resurrected ship which collided with that iceberg almost 70 years ago.

The film is based on the novel of the same name by Clive Cussler and stars Jason Robards and Sir Alec Guinness. It is a Hollywood cum Maritime Arch Film Company production.

Presumably someone eventually explained the situation to the Russians who were soon lining their decks carrying cameras and binoculars.

But they still must have wondered at the craziness of such people who had gone so far as to transform a Greek harbour into a New York when they had an authentic New York harbour in their own backyard.

The film's producer William Fry said: "It was simply that here in Athens we found the *Athena*, an old, rusting passenger liner ready for the scrap yard, which could serve as the newly raised *Titanic*. It was cheaper by far to bring New York to the ship than the ship to New York. It would have cost at least \$1m to tow it—even in the unlikely event that we could have insured it."

The Russians did not get the grand tour of the mothballed hulls of the *Athena*/*Titanic*. If they had they would have seen an eerie recreation of the *Titanic*'s grand salon encrusted with sea mould, with broken gilt chairs, grand piano and the skeletons of once elegant sofas stacked in a corner, the whole atmosphere dark, grey and tomblike.

A chilling place it certainly was, but happily not the latest manoeuvre in an escalating cold war.

Marcos appeal to rival seen as inevitable

From M. G. G. Pillai

Kuala Lumpur, Jan 10

President Marcos's appeal to his bitterest rival, the former Senator Benigno Aquino, to forget the past and join him in building a new Philippines, was taken many by surprise, but the move itself was inevitable, considering the growing problems facing the seven-year-old martial law administration.

The action itself is almost without precedent. It is as if President Zia ul-Haq, instead of hanging Mr Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, had invited him from his death cell and asked him for help in putting Pakistan society right.

Like Mr Bhutto, Mr Aquino was under sentence of death for treason. But unlike the unfortunate Mr Bhutto, President Marcos promptly ordered a fresh hearing on the matter after a military court had passed the death sentence.

Comparisons between Mr Bhutto and Mr Aquino were probably not fair, but the fact remains that Mr Aquino was also the most prominent politician in his country and was widely expected to succeed Mr Marcos as president in 1972, when the President pre-empted the elections and established a martial law administration instead.

But President Marcos's remarkable move to invite Mr Aquino—who is now under temporary house arrest to enable him to spend the Christmas and New Year holidays with his family—has come about as the martial law administration is running into trouble.

The promises that were used to justify the dictatorship that Mr Marcos had established have not been generally kept, according to most observers of the Philippines scene, and opposition is fast growing.

Coupled with a lack of a designated successor—although his wife, Mrs Imelda Marcos, is widely tipped to succeed him—and reports that the 67-year-old President is not in the best of health, pressure against his regime has been growing.

The Army remains beholden to him but its seven years of unfettered power at Mr Marcos's main prop have given some of its leaders ideas of permanency and indications are that this is now beginning to worry Mr Marcos. The Army has been a neutral force in pre-martial law politics, but this is changing.

The Army remains particularly important as the Muslim irredentist movement in Manila is running into trouble.

He has demanded a public discussion of the proposals that Mr Marcos has in mind for a restoration of democratic rights in the Philippines. Many of the restrictive laws the President made under his martial law powers ought to be removed and the Army should be involved in the process that would bring it back to democracy.

Mr Marcos's reactions are not known, but the fact remains that given the magnitude of problems that he faces he may have little choice.

Muslims freed: President Marcos has ordered the release of 135 Filipino Muslims arrested early last month during a pro-Iranian, anti-American demonstration in Manila.

Free Kampuchean in disarray

From Neil Kelly

Aranyaprathet, Thailand, Jan 10

Western diplomats and other experts doubt if anti-communist Kampuchean now trying to strengthen resistance to Vietnamese control have any chance of reversing the tide of history by turning their country away from communism.

A referendum in Kampuchea, they said, would undoubtedly favour a government in which neither the former nor the present Vietnamese-controlled governments would have a part.

That was their conclusion after investigating Free Khmer and other anti-communist elements inside Kampuchea, along the Thai border and among the Khmer Rouge but a larger group led by Mr Vong Achivong opposed cooperation.

Mr In Sakhon, the leader of one anti-communist group, had been collaborating militarily with the Khmer Rouge but a larger group led by Mr Vong Achivong opposed cooperation.

The vast majority of the 750,000 Kampuchean spread along 500 miles of the Thai border is firmly anti-communist but they are divided among themselves and have small hope of obtaining military supplies.

Two thirds of 180,000 Kampuchean in Thai refugee camps appear determinedly anti-communist and the low morale and general demeanour of Khmer Rouge supporters indicate that few would be ready to fight for communism again.

Some, however, have escaped from the camps and recrossed the border, presumably to resume fighting.

The diplomats said that a large number of Kampuchean

US pledges maximum assistance to Turkey

From Sian Fisck

Ankara, Jan 10

Turkey and the United States today ratified a five-year defence agreement which both sides termed "a milestone in Turkish-American relations".

Mr Ronald Spiers, the United States Ambassador in Ankara, said after the initialising ceremony at the Turkish Foreign Ministry: "Our commitment is to undertake a process which we believe will result in maximum assistance to Turkey". He added that the agreement was "politically and economically feasible to Turkey" but he made no mention of specific amounts of aid.

"There should be no doubt in anyone's mind that assistance to Turkey both in the military and economic areas is an urgent matter for Turkey's allies, and I have urged my Government to give the maximum help it can, and I will continue to do so," Mr Spiers said.

Mr Faruk Sabinbas, a Deputy Under-Secretary of the Foreign Ministry and the head of the Turkish delegation at the talks, said the agreement had taken a year to work out. "In view of the complexities of our multi-faceted relations," he said, "this was the shortest time possible."

Details of the agreement will not be made public until the annexes and protocols are completed, officials said, adding that they did not expect any last-minute hitches.

The agreement covers a five-year period, and is renewable annually thereafter.

Ankara, Jan 10.—The defence agreement initialised today will allow the United States to continue using vital intelligence-gathering and military bases in Turkey, including two installations which monitor Soviet military and missile activities. —Reuter.

Sudan-Uganda border is reopened

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Jan 10

Ugandan officials opened the land border with Sudan to normal traffic. A group of officials travelled from the customs post at Atiak, a few miles south of the border, to the town of Nimule, in southern Sudan, to confirm the reopening of this route.

Although never officially closed, the route has been barred to normal traffic since the overthrow of President Idi Amin, last April. The reopening marks an improvement in Uganda-Sudan relations.

Uganda has asked Sudan to return a large number of vehicles taken across the border last year. fleeing supporters to Amin. Sudan has reopened Kampala Embankment, closed several months ago because of tension between the two countries.

Zanzibar MPs meet 16 years after revolution

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Jan 10

Forty members of Zanzibar's new House of Representatives, the first to be elected since the 1964 revolution which overthrew the Sultan, are due to meet for the first time at the weekend.

With all these problems ahead, Mr Marcos has gone to the leader of the now banned Liberal Party, which with his Nationalista Party, were the main ones in pre-martial law.

Mr Aquino is using Mr Marcos's dilemma to gain as much political capital as he can. At a press conference he gave today in defiance of his house arrest conditions, he offered to leave the Philippines for good under an amnesty but he was not prepared to admit to the treasonous charges levelled against him.

He has demanded a public discussion of the proposals that Mr Marcos has in mind for a restoration of democratic rights in the Philippines. Many of the restrictive laws the President made under his martial law powers ought to be removed and the Army should be involved in the process that would bring it back to democracy.

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FOREIGN REPORT

The vulnerability of Baluchistan

Faced by a Russian dominated Afghanistan, which part of Pakistan's border could be the more tense, the North-West Frontier Province or Baluchistan?

Most of the refugees from Afghanistan are concentrated in the NWFP where most of Pakistan's own Pathan population lives. The tension here goes back 30 years, with Afghanistan's on-and-off campaign for Baluchistan—a united Pathan state, which would restore to Afghanistan the Pathan majority rule or patronage of the Pathans who live in Pakistan.

The answer to the question, however, could be that Baluchistan is now the more vulnerable. In some ways Baluchistan province is a miniature version of Afghanistan; that is to say with a small, educated, urban class and a large, mostly tribal, nomadic and often illiterate mass of the population. During the last decade this educated Baluchi class, the young especially, has been more attached to Afghanistan than to the Pathans of the NWFP and much more influenced by Soviet propaganda.

Nevertheless, there are the usual quarrels among the leftists of Baluchistan and with the indefinite postponement of elections.

Amidst the political activity imposed by General Zia last October, the danger of the Baluchi left should not be exaggerated.

Baluchistan is the westernmost state of Pakistan with 2.5 million people living in 124,000 square miles, though about one million of these are Pathans. Adjoining Baluchistan, across the Iranian frontier, live another half million or more Baluchs inhabiting 70,000 square miles of equally rough, unirrigated hill country where the nomadic life and tribal organization still dominate society.

What brings these Baluchs close to those in Pakistan is not merely their proximity across a little controlled frontier and the distance that the Iranian Baluchs live from the main centres of Iranian life; the Baluchs are Sunni Muslims and hence an alien minority in Iran.

Then there are the Baluchs of Afghanistan itself, living about the south-western corner of the country also in close touch with those in Pakistan's Baluchistan province. For all these Baluchs, loyalty to family, clan and tribe counts for more than loyalty to any nation.

Against this must be set the advantages of the economy. Does Baluchistan offer jobs for the aspiring, educated young? The answer must be not yet. The best exploited economic asset in the Sui gasfield in the north. There are ample deposits of coal, chrome, sulphur and iron ore but not much is yet being mined. In 1970 a university was established in Quetta, the provincial capital and home of the military staff college set up in British days; and other towns as well as Quetta have expanded in the past 20 years. But no one can say that economic hopes will keep discontented, young revolutionaries happy.

Among Baluchi aspirations, the least likely would be a united, independent Baluchi republic taking in those from Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. It is true that in the latter half of the eighteenth century something like this existed before British rule came. But nationhood in this sense is not enough developed.

Nor is the alternative for Pakistan's Baluchis of joining those in Iran a possibility while the Ayatollah rules. If, however, Afghanistan were to win its war to get the Pathans of Pakistan into their camp, then that might tempt Baluchi to go over too; but that is unlikely since after three decades the Pakistani Pathans have not thought that Afghanistan had anything to offer them.

But what might a "socialist" Afghan offer to the romantic young Baluchi revolutionaries? The response in Baluchistan to the Taraki government's accession in 1978 was certainly fulsome. Can the Russians exploit this and will they want to? Or will such romanticism wither in face of the realities of Soviet domination?

Richard Harris

Ghana

Struggle for stability

Ghana is struggling for stability after the most extraordinary succession of events last year. On June 4 a coup was led by a Flight Lieutenant who immediately announced that elections planned for 10 days later could go ahead, and in spite of much talk of revolution fanned over power on September 24 to the basically conservative party that won the elections.

Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, the man who led the coup, was a most magnetic personality and an immensely popular man among Ghanaians. He hoped, in his brief period in office, to rid Ghana of corruption.

His successor

THE ARTS

Theatre: forthcoming events

The Royal Shakespeare Company's *Piaf* and *Moss Hart* and George S. Kaufman's *Once in a Lifetime* are shortly to transfer to Wyndham's and the Piccadilly Theatre. *Piaf* goes to Wyndham's for a five-week season from Tuesday, and then moves to the Piccadilly to join *Once in a Lifetime*, which has its first performance there on February 20.

The actor Tom Conti will make his British debut as a director on January 22 with a revival of Rodney Ackland's comedy *Before the Party* at the Oxford Playhouse. Jane Asher, Michael Gough and Phyllis Calvert will be among the cast, and the production will subsequently tour to Brighton and Richmond. It will be seen in Oxford by a new play from

Nigel Williams, whose previous play *Class Enemy* is currently running off-Broadway in New York. His new work, *Trial Run*, is set in the basement of Woolworth in Hounslow, where two armed men hold four hostages captive.

Born in the Garden, a new play by Peter Nichols will open at the Globe Theatre on January 23, with previews from Thursday. Beryl Reid heads the cast, and the director is Clifford Williams. The play was seen at Bristol Old Vic in September.

Le Cirque Imaginaire, with Victoria Chaplin and Jean-Baptiste Tissiere, will return to the Riverside Studio, Sudbury, Hammersmith, from March 4 to 30. Their first visit to Riverside, last summer, was sold out.

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Steel (AA)

Classic, Leicester Sq.;

Scene, Leicester Sq.

Night Games (X)

Prince Charles



Brad Dourif (left) and Harry Dean Stanton: dire intensity in face of seductive salvationism

John Huston is 75, has been working for almost fifty of those years in Hollywood and directed his first picture, *The Maltese Falcon*, almost forty years ago, in 1941. There is nothing though about the masterly *Wise Blood*—apart from the relaxed assurance and a certain sage charity behind the ironies—that reveals it is the work of a veteran. It is, indeed, the most *youthful* film we are likely to see this year. It is based on a novel by the American writer Flannery O'Connor (1925-1964), and was scripted by Benedict and Michael Fitzgerald, who as children were friends of the writer. Her novel is set in Bible Belt America: "Taulkingham" was originally modelled on Atlanta but, because of the changes wrought upon the city in the 25 years since the novel appeared, Huston has moved the location to Macon, Georgia.

Hazel Motes is a dour young man who comes back from the army determined "to do things I ain't never done before", and driven by a frenzy to escape the burdens of guilt laid on him by his hellfire revivalist upbringing. (In flashbacks Huston himself plays the nightmare figure of the preacher grandfather whose image is confused with other images of death, early intimations of sexuality, the shame of frightened, redden

Hawks, an allegedly self-blinded preacher, and his predatory, ugly daughter Sabbath Lily. Enoch Einer, a lonesome, natural-born idiot driven by the irrational dictates of his own "wise blood", and eager to communicate the benefits of that blood to Hazel.

Hazel defies grandfather, Jesus and the seductive salvationism of Hawks, ignores the sexual voracity of Sabbath Lily as well as Enoch's tributes of friendship, and fanatically sets about preaching his own new Church of Christ Without Christ. The outcome—the gradual revelation of the obsessive hold of religion upon this would-be escapee, the extent of his need for aspiration and self-mortification—is by turns comic, ironic and ultimately horrific.

Huston's technique of adapting the words and indications of his literary originals as precisely as possible already served him well in *The Maltese Falcon*. In other hands such methods have more often than not resulted in blury, lifeless carbon copies. Huston, however, possesses a unique sensitivity which enables him to interpret and even enrich the writer's conception.

Once, at the time of *The African Queen*, he revealed that "The trick is in the casting". In *Wise Blood* he uses good professional actors—none of them big-name stars—along

side the local people of Macon: it is said that not only

the rhetorical sheriff, but also the mountaineers, Fellini where, were played by their real-life originals.

He casts his personages for their spiritual resemblances, rather than as strictly physical lookalikes. Brad Dourif (with a dire intensity that strangely recalls Audie Murphy in Huston's *The Red Badge of Courage*) is indeed, O'Connor's Hazel, his face "sour and frog-like; it looked as if it had a shout closed up in it". Harry Dean Stanton's Asa Hawks, too, has a mouth with the authentic "look" that might have been either holy or calculating, but there was a wildness in the eyes that suggested terror.

The other parts are as accurately selected: Amy Wright as the precociously dissolute Sabbath Lily; an attractive newcomer, Daniel Sturz, as Enoch, ably filling out a role that has been inevitably reduced from the book, providing comically touching moments like his shocked reaction to a public rebuke by Hazel, a flood of tears filtering with difficulty through a mouthful of hamberger.

Huston shares with a very few directors (Baz Luhrmann is another) the ability to make everything look perfectly effortless, a style which conceals style. Thirty years ago

by Jay Amos; and the novel has now been spectacularized by American International Pictures as *The Amityville Horror*. The most that can be said for its accuracy is that it is based on the real events; though the opening and endings invite a more literal belief in what is on the screen.

There is not much point in regretting that an accurate recounting of the events, and the history of the house before (the film doesn't mention that it stands on an old Indian sacred site) and afterwards, might have been much more interesting. The director, Stuart Rosenberg, has instead opted for a full-blooded AIP spine-chiller, and done it very effectively. It is well stocked with chills and horrors and good melodrama characters (James Brolin, Margot Kidder, Rod Steiger) from the very opening shot of the storm-swept house with its side elevation for all the world like a demon face—apparently one of the more accurate details of the film.

Time After Time is the first film directed (as well as written) by Nicholas Meyer, who scripted *The Seven Per Cent Solution*. Its premise is a fine invention: H. G. Wells has actually made his time machine in the cellar, and after it has been borrowed by Jack the Ripper for a quick getaway, himself pursues the villain to 1979. After that, un-

fortunately, the film hasn't really the courage of its convictions: the meeting of the minds of 1893 and 1979 tends to be seen as cliché, and recognition that Jack the Ripper is more at home in modern San Francisco (they land there, because Wells's study has been shipped for an exhibition) than is the scientist and visionary could have brought out more than a few excellent lines ("The first man who raises his fist has run out of ideas").

Within its limitation,

though *Time After Time* is extremely likable, played winningly by Malcolm McDowell and the slow-spoken Mary Steenburgen, and, wickedly, David Warner, as Jack in jeans.

Dom de Lint is the some-

what melancholy-looking, plump comic who tends to play

hollies in films like *The Mel Brooks Show*. For *Steel*, he has taken a story based on actual incidents, when the police apparently set up as receivers and not only hopped in a mountain of stolen goods but rounded up some 4,000 rifles.

The idea is funny; and de

Louis, like Huston, seems to have a genius for casting his fellow cops (Suzanne Pleshette, Jerry Reed, Luis Avalos), their customers (notably Bill McCraven and Sydney Laasick) and the mob, which tries to muscle in on a good thing, led

by the veteran screen gangster Marc Lawrence, are as consistently enjoyable a bunch of eccentrics as could be hoped for. If the gags tend to be repetitive, and rather clumsily strung into a story, there is every reason to believe that de Louis will do better next time.

It is showing with *Steel*, set among the tough world of highway building, with a sort of Dirty Dozen construction crew pitted against corrupt bosses and vicious. The film is directed with energy if, no particular distinction by Roger Corman alumnus, Steven Curver.

Roger Vadim's *Night Games* is a sad fall from his previous American film, *Pretty Maids All in a Row*. Borrowing all the worst elements of Polanski's *Repulsion*, it is about a wife temporarily abandoned by her husband on account of her frigidity, the result of child-hood rape. An incubus who appears to her in the night in a variety of ridiculous fancy dresses rather rapidly puts things to rights, as well as saving her from a night prowler. To compound the film's many demerits, Vadim has succeeded in getting his American actors to speak as if they were all rather poorly dubbed.

David Robinson

ECO/Tippett/Del Mar
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Stanley Sadie

The Tippett birthday celebration offered on Wednesday by the English Chamber Orchestra was, apologetically I suppose, a retrospective event. Certainly Sir Michael has plenty to look back on at 75. It must be the particular shape of his output that determined the rather limited period over which the chosen music ranged: scarcely more than 20 of those 75 years. The opportunity would have been welcome to hear something from his youth and something from recent years; but all his works for chamber orchestra happen to fall in those middle decades.

We did, however, have one novelty, or near-novelty: what was described, with perhaps pardonable exaggeration, as the world premiere of *Words for Music Perhaps*—a work consisting of series of short instrumental interludes linking a sequence of W. B. Yeats's poems. The music, commissioned by the BBC, was written in 1959-60 and broadcast in June 1960.

Mayerling
Covent Garden

John Percival

In a mainly familiar cast for this season's first performance of *Mayerling*, it was Lesley Collier who gave the most surprising account of her role. She has played Mary Verstra since the production's early days, but on Wednesday she brought to the part a volubility and drive not often found before in this or any other ballet.

There is little or no madness in her concept of the character. The impression she gives (quite in accordance with the known facts) is of a nicely brought-up girl with a crush on the hand-

The poems, selected by Anthony Thwaite, deal with love, with age and death. Tippett's interludes are set for violin and cello, trumpet and bass clarinet, piano and percussion. Tippett has said that "he unchained" the poems "so that the effect was of jewels set into a kind of necklace". The comment is modest, but it is also quite fair, for he took good care not to write music decisive enough in character to dominate any way around the verse. In *Yeats*, it is slender, mostly made by just two or three instruments at a time; and though sometimes there is music between stanzas it is rarely, if ever, against the voice.

Sometimes it alludes to the words in a specific sense: the dancing of the violin and bass clarinet before "Crazy Jane" grown old looks at the dancers"; hints on the piano and the cello of Plato's whirling spindle for "The Bargain". Generally the imagery is restrained, and the music no more than emotionally suggestive. Here and there, as in the spindle music, it hints at Tippett's King Priam idiom, busy and percussive. But in the main it is a string for the necklace of Yeats' jewels, in Tippett's own terminology, and a string should not be intrinsically too

interesting. The music serves well; but I do not think it really yields the poems in anything. It was neatly played under Norman Del Mar, and sensitively spoken by Michael霍顿, the first time (we heard it twice) the more precisely and steadily. The most recent music in the programme was the group of Songs for Ariadne, which Paul Elliott, although the music seemed to lie outside him, sang with exquisite gentleness.

For the rest it was the three chamber/orchestral works. Mr Del Mar conducted the Divertimento on Sollinger's Round, a happy piece for such an occasion with its wit and its inventive treasuries of the English musical past, and the Fantasia Concertante on a theme of Corelli, where the burgeoning arabesques that rise out of Corelli's chaste invention somehow symbolize the nature of Tippett's gift, or one side of it. And finally Sir Michael himself came on to conduct the Concerto for Double String Orchestra, another deeply characteristic piece, with its roots deep in the English pastoral tradition but a lively ear cocked to Stravinsky and the future. Everyone played spiritedly and affectionately.

Stephanie and, after so stiff a beginning, from Monica Mason as the Empress.

The trouble with the ballet is that these are the only characters who seem to have interested Kenneth MacMillan more than momentarily. Shuffled out with a long list of utterly wooden minor roles, a great deal of dubious history and perfunctory or irrelevant incident, the work plods on for almost three hours. Inside it, I feel, is a different, shorter and much better ballet struggling to get out.

The choreography for the principals includes some of the best of MacMillan's recent invention. If only he could have concentrated entirely on them instead of following the conventional three-act narrative form,

(again Mr Roberts) with its original accompaniment for flute, clarinet, bassoon and string quartet, equally the familiar *Trois Mouvements Perpetuels* for piano as patently rescored for this same ensemble. The *Music for Eight Instruments* pour petit orchestre proved scarcely less titillating in terms of crystalline sonority, their once notorious polytonality now no more provocative than any other product of those naughty days.

These performances were directed with economical neatness by Ian Brown, who besides writing the libretto in French was also at the piano in Ravel's *A minor trio* and Mozart's quintet for keyboard and wind, K452.

There was much to enjoy in the team's fluid approach to Ravel, and equally their close tonal blend and attentive shading of Mozart.

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Television

Keep Smiling
BBC 1

Stanley Reynolds

A sure way to dramatic success is to give the audience plenty of pretty pictures and flesh-and-blood people and yet flatter the viewers' intellect by making them believe they are watching them gazing with brave, unblinking eye, while some horror of modern life is being unmasked. Sugar-coating the pill is the phrase. And this is just what Mr Paul Joyce did with *Keep Smiling*, which he wrote and directed for the Play on BBC 1 last night.

Mr Joyce is a professional photographer and therefore his pictures were most pleasing to the eye, marvellously composed. Do we, then, want bad photography? I think we rather do. Something at least to rub the viewers' noses in like the stark realism of Mr Tooy Garnett and Mr Ken Loach in the old BBC 1 *Wednesday Plays*.

Keep Smiling was about schizophrenia. The notes told us that Mr Joyce had researched the job. Stephen Moore, as Simon Hulse, an apparently highly-paid executive, was suddenly taken with

the disorder rather like one comes down with the flu. He quit his job, took to collecting trash in an amateur way from neighbours' dustbins, got himself rigged out in a romantic tramp's outfit, filthy pullover, dirty mac and gawky trousers. While this was going on his wife, Mary (Morag Hood), attempted to cope rearing the children, supporting the family finances.

Miss Hood is a beautiful woman and therefore fits in with the prettiness of the play. When they wanted to show that Mary was under mental strain herself, they merely put Miss Hood's make-up on bodily. And, in the end, with the mortgage on the luxury house foreclosed, with Mary and the children living on a humble estate, the wife seemed to have lost her home-decorating taste. The walls and doorways were down-market, meanwhile Simon was not locked

SPORT

Rugby Union

Irishmen of distinction in charge of Lions tourBy Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

Two of Ireland's most distinguished post-war forwards, Sid Millar (Ballymena and Ulster) and Noel Murphy (Cork Constitution and Munster), have been appointed by the Lions' tour manager to serve as manager and coach of the British Lions tour party to South Africa this summer.

It will be only the second time since 1938 that these posts have been filled by two men from the same country and it remains possible that the two will be the two Nations' champions who have unfolded that Ireland will also supply the 1980 captain. Their leader, Fergus Slattery, who will equal Murphy's total record of 12 caps, is forward when he plays at Twickenham tomorrow week must be seen as having excellent qualifications for the job.

Meanwhile, it is comforting to note that the home unions—who, as far as we are aware, decided in the special round circumstances to forgo their usual procedure of inviting the home countries to nominate a number of candidates—have not been swayed by parochial considerations when making their first important appointment. The choice of Millar, aged 41, was widely expected, since he has a better track record than any of the other national coaches, two of whom, Mike Davis (England) and John Lloyd (Wales), are in their first year. It is clear that Irish coach for the 1977-78 season and, last summer, guided and inspired his country to two good international wins in Australia.

Millar, who is 46, coached the unbeaten Lions, on the last tour of South Africa in 1974, when Bill McBride was captain. There are several instances of Lions captains assuming administrative responsibility for later tours, but Millar did so in the same year as Millar and finished it a season earlier. He won eight caps on two Lions tours to Australia and New Zealand in 1959 and 1968.

Millar, who now coaches his national team for four seasons in the early seventies, is a former president of the Ulster branch of the Irish Union and is currently managing director of a company dealing in building and the import of South African sportswear.

He won 37 Irish caps as an indestructible prop between 1958 and 1970 and acquired nine more on three tours with the Lions. One of those was to Australia and New Zealand in 1968, and again to South Africa in 1968. He toured South Africa with the Irish team in 1961.

Murphy, who was on that visit to South Africa, when his father,



Sid Millar (left) and Noel Murphy, manager and coach of the British Lions

a former international (and future president of the Irish Rugby Union) was a manager. Millar junior, now 21, is an international centre in the same year as Millar and finished it a season earlier. He won eight caps on two Lions tours to Australia and New Zealand in 1959 and 1968.

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Murphy said yesterday that he had seen apartheid in operation in the early 1960s and, although he had not been back to South Africa

he accepted the evidence of those who had seen blacks with white coloured plates together.

He added that he was totally opposed to apartheid and that he had no doubt that people generally deplored it. "But I am happy that it no longer exists in rugby," he said.

The African board were asked by the four home unions to make changes so that blacks and coloured could play with whites and be members of clubs, they had a helpful attitude to sport.

Details of the tour itinerary have yet to be finalized but it was confirmed by John Lawrence, secretary of the four home unions' tour committee, that it would comprise some 18 matches and last from early to mid-July.

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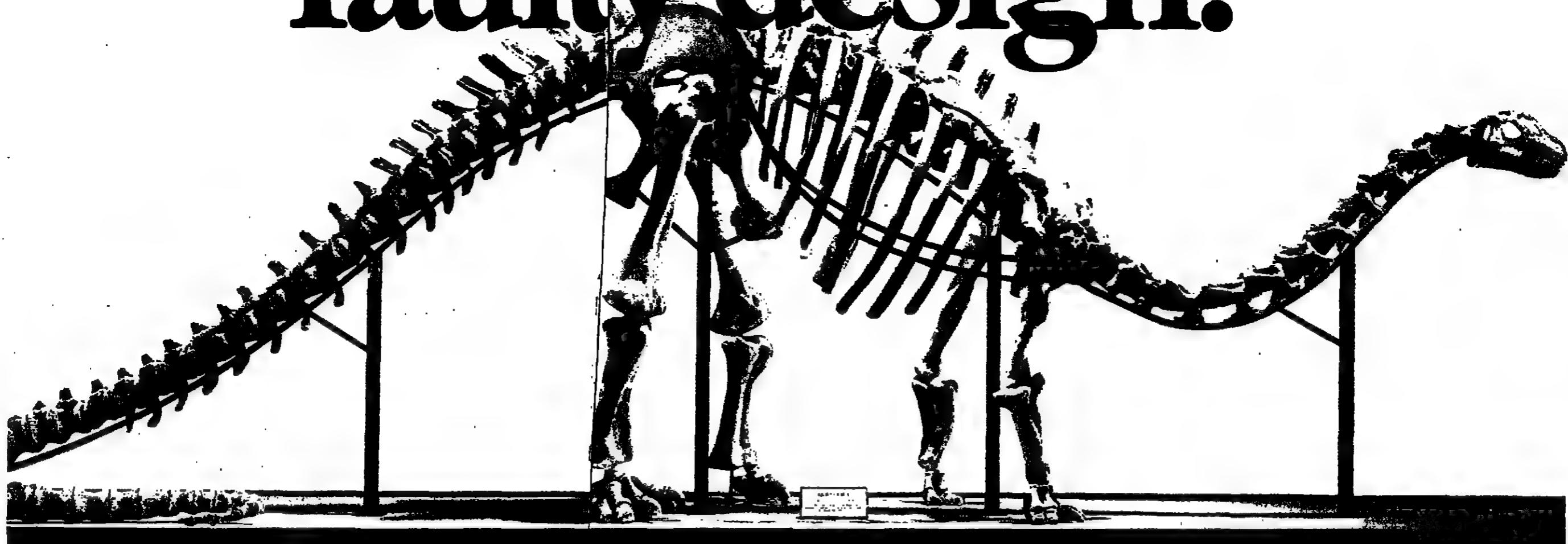
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Sir Charles Villiers, chairman British Steel Corporation

Peter Hill and Paul Routledge put vital questions to the leaders of both sides in the steel strike, Sir Charles Villiers and William Sirs

Is this strike due to a failure in presentation of the pay offer, or are there more deep seated reasons; and what went wrong on December 28?

How realistic are the present positions of management and unions?

What form should the final settlement take?

What are the specific dangers of a prolonged shutdown?

What is the Government doing, and what should it be doing to resolve this dispute?

Can unions and management resolve this dispute or will it require third party intervention?

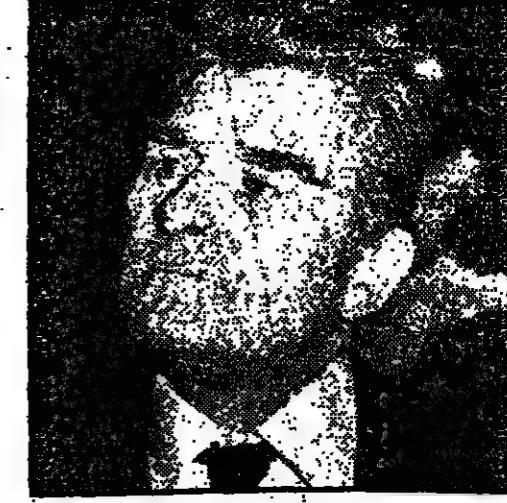
What kind of collective bargaining should BSC adopt to reflect the realities of the industry and avoid a repetition of this strike?

What is morale like among management and workers in BSC and what will be the long term impact of this strike?

Is there a political dimension to this strike? If so what will come of it?

What size and kind of steel industry should this country have in the 1980s and beyond—and will we get it?

What are your personal feelings now?



Mr. William Sirs, general secretary, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation

Why the BSC's offer must be fully understood

"The strike, in our view, is due to one fundamental deep-seated reason, that is the unwillingness of the unions to accept the corporation's definition of circumstances and to negotiate in this particular case improvement in pay against improvements in performance," said Sir Charles Villiers. "There is still, unfortunately, an expectancy within the unions of a straight basic increase. This is very difficult to overcome."

"There has been a failure in presentation of the original offer of 2 per cent for consolidation, plus up to 10 per cent for achieving increases in efficiency. The efficiency element has been persistently neglected by the media and we have now moved to the position where there is 8 per cent for improvements in the national agreement and a guaranteed 4 per cent for the current year, and schemes are being put forward by the works which show how this amount can be not only earned, but exceeded."

"On the basis of the discussions between BSC and the TUC coordinating committee on December 24, we believed a climate had been created in which there was every reason to believe that an understanding could be reached on December 28 at which the strike would at least have been called off."

He continued: "BSC's position is based on the financial and commercial constraints we are under. It is an attempt to reconcile significant increases in earnings for steelworkers with self-financing of these increases through improved performance by plants in BSC."

"A national increase in line with the going rate for the public sector, which was not linked to increases in efficiency, would price British Steel out of its markets and lead to a vicious circle of lost orders, and further substantial losses which really would jeopardise the future of BSC plants and a great many jobs in them."

"The final settlement must take account of BSC's overriding need for maximum local efficiency, productivity and flexibility between craftsmen and process workers and for the national element to be self-financed as far as possible, and to get this delivered, BSC has discussed various ways of achieving this with union

leaders; it has made a generous offer based on those criteria."

"There is absolutely no doubt that a prolonged shutdown would shrink BSC's market share and those for the whole of British industry and increase import penetration of finished goods and almost certainly kibosh the chance that BSC's proposed effective steelmaking capacity of 15m tonnes will be viable. This in turn would obviously jeopardize the future of plants which BSC currently regards as part of its core business, for example at Ravenscraig and Sheffield, and lead to yet further job losses."

"The Government is supporting the overall objective of the previous Government, i.e., to put the corporation back on the road towards financial viability. The prime duty for this must be on the management and the work force of the corporation.

He concluded: "The Government, in our view, should allow the dispute to settle at a level which will permit BSC to continue its progress towards viability by improving our efficiency and costs. It is what any business would want to happen. We do not want intervention which would upset that progress."

"We must hope in the interests of the industry that unions and management can solve this dispute as we have done before.

"Almost no serious negotiation has been allowed by the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation heavy steel committee. It is therefore the job of BSC to ensure that its offer is fully understood by its workforce in all parts of the country to provide an atmosphere in which further negotiations could be fruitful."

"To get it across in detail to a local job and shop is happening now and more. I am glad to say, a heavy burden on the national revenue. This application of resources to the corporation can only be justified if both management and workforces are committed to achieve viability through competition on an international level."

"The nation needs to see that a nationalised industry can compete effectively in a tough international market."

"We are very understanding of the workforce's worry at the continuing uncertainties but we are hopeful that the workforce will come to see that this inevitable process of massive adjustment to a smaller, but stronger industry is now in its final phase and that the majority of jobs in the remaining plants will be more secure."

"There is no great acrimony but there does not seem to be a willingness to resolve the problem. It is an immense disappointment to me because I came along with views on solving our problems in a different way, so personal feelings must give way."

"The element of the 'Steel Contract' which has continued is joint consultation and we have had an enormous amount of that up to the announcement of the Corby closure. Why can we not get back into joint consultation? We should look at serious propositions rather than growling at one another."

Peter Hill

Industrial Editor

the financial circumstances of the industry. I feel that we have gone as far as this with proper negotiation and without the unions ascertaining the views of their members."

"The long-term effect of the dispute," said Sir Charles, "will depend on the way in which it ends. If it finishes in a grey, indecisive way, all the old doubts will remain. The effect on morale will depend above all on whether BSC's workforce emerge from it with a reasonable guaranteed wage increase—and 12 per cent is not too bad—and greater job security based on a profitable, efficient industry."

"There is a limit to the taxpayers' patience and the White Paper said funds required by the BSC will inevitably place a heavy burden on the national revenue. This application of resources to the corporation can only be justified if both management and workforces are committed to achieve viability through competition on an international level."

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Industrial Editor

The only way the strike can ever be resolved

Mr William Sirs, general secretary of the dominant union in the steel industry, the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, is deeply critical of both Government and British Steel, and feels that the strike his union started may only be resolved by third-party intervention.

In response to our questions, he said: "You have to bear in mind that has been happening over plant closure and the injustices we had to face. You just could not let these things happen. There was a feeling of frustration, that corporation thought we were insignificant."

"Even that would not have caused the strike but there was a smouldering in the breasts of many people. When the pay offer was presented to us, it was done in a very peculiar manner. It was an arrogance about it, and it seemed to be aimed at our failure to persuade other unions to support us in a strike over plant closures. BSC thought we were out on a limb, the movement was fragmented and they could force on us whatever they decided to offer."

"I asked them to reconsider and make a better offer. They went outside and five minutes later said, 'there is no more money; that's it, that's the finish.' My members were justifiably annoyed about the whole method of negotiation, and asked the executive to take strong action."

"Our position has been very unrealistic. We offered considerable concessions they have been wanting for years—set-union bargaining at plant level. They had this writing for eight per cent at plant and a five per cent enabling payment for productivity deals at works level. We were absolutely amazed when it was rejected."

"The offer now is actually worse than what we were originally offered—a last two per cent was new money."

"My members want 20 per cent with no strings attached. That's a straightforward answer. That's what they are saying. It is evident that there has to be some qualifying for the payment we are quite prepared to put in a clause accepting productivity agreements at local level. We will accept a reduction in overtime and help them with absenteeism, but only for so far that is acceptable. I would not say must be 20 per cent. I am prepared now all I

can to help the industry in its restructuring. They will be asking for more than we want to give them, but that is a matter for negotiation."

"The closure threat is being used to frighten us. But our members couldn't care less about such threats, because they think that whatever they do BSC will close us. When Sir Keith Joseph says things like that they just ignore him. They have lost all confidence in the industry and in the management who have been ignoring our arguments about steel output."

"BSC are bringing us down to a 'core', where nothing further can be reduced. I see no danger of an industry the size they are talking about being reduced, because if we do, we become a fourth-rate nation in terms of steel production. It just couldn't happen. The equipment is too good for it to happen."

"The Government are responsible for the dispute. It is they who have put cash limits on the industry—or at most somewhere near 18 million. That is going to be many millions short of the country's needs when industry picks up."

"I think we need a massive audit of BSC. I would like to take part in it and ask questions. A lot of secrets would come out, a lot of failures and excess spending. It might prevent further mistakes, but only if we had a management capable of running the industry without making those mistakes."

"The Government are evading the questions. They will not answer them and yet on every occasion the Prime Minister and Sir Keith Joseph appear on television and radio they present the arguments of BSC. They have obviously met representatives of BSC and never have they met this union to hear our arguments on pay. They have intervened—on the side of the employer—very forcibly."

"I don't think the unions and management can solve this dispute. I think it will require third-party intervention. I think BSC are incapable of doing it as negotiators."

"The strike has not happened because of the industry's collective bargaining system, but because BSC tried to change the system. Our system has been recommended as a model to other industries. We have many decades of hard bargaining and peaceful negotiation and I don't think the system should be changed."

"Morale was not particularly good before this strike. There is not a great deal of confidence in the management of BSC, because of the way in which they are running down the industry. The impact of this strike will not worsen morale. It

might improve it. The men will go back to work knowing that at least they have faith in one organization that is trying to do something and that is their union."

"There certainly was no political dimension to the strike in the beginning. I have blamed the Government, but we are not trying to defeat the Government in this strike. That is not our objective."

"Some people see the strike as a way in which the Government can be pressured into doing a U-turn on its policies. As I said, I am not here to defeat the Government by the strike. But I think their policy on industry is wrong, and if our action persuades them to take another look at their policy that would not surprise me and I think it would be good for the country."

"By 1985, with the proposals we have before us, BSC will have only 13 million tonnes capacity—or at most somewhere near 18 million. That is going to be many millions short of the country's needs when industry picks up."

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tive Government. Any Labour legislation initiated by private members on the Committee would be blocked when it came to the floor of the House for third reading. This would be a recipe for perpetual deadlock. It is precisely the kind of half-baked idea that should not be pursued in the attempt to show that "something is being done for Scotland".

So we are left with tinkering and symbolism. Both may be useful. The new Select Committee will do its job better if it takes a good deal of evidence in Scotland. There would be no practical advantage in the Grand Committee meeting there and the logistical difficulties will be better appreciated when the members have been stranded once or twice at Turnhouse Airport with a three-line whip at Westminster that evening. But nobody should scorn the value of appearances in the government of Scotland.

Part of the demand for devolution was a cry for attention, and I believe one of the reasons it ultimately failed to command sufficient support was that in passing the legislation Parliament had already devoted the larger part of two sessions to the future of Scotland. The sense of neglect had been recognised. It was not to be assuaged until further if all Scottish committees at Westminster were televised.

This combination of tinkering and symbolism accords with the present state of Scottish opinion. It is justified by the present, but it does not justify the past. It does not justify the campaign for assembly, and the sense of neglect had been recognised. It was not to be assuaged until further if all Scottish committees at Westminster were televised.

This combination of tinkering and symbolism accords with the present state of Scottish opinion. It is justified by the present, but it does not justify the past. It does not justify the campaign for assembly. There was an honourable case for campaigning against an Assembly. To campaign on the lines of

"No, but" was misleading because it implied a serious alternative which does not exist.

Geoffrey Smith

Finding the right Scottish voice

A useful means of making Parliament's concern with Scotland evident to the Scottish public will be through the new Select Committee on Scottish Affairs which intends to meet from time to time in Edinburgh and Glasgow and which hopes that some of its proceedings will be televised, as George Clark reports on another page.

But what else is being done to find an alternative to the devolution scheme that was effectively killed by the inconclusive vote of the Scottish electorate last March?

One of the features of that referendum was that the Conservatives did not campaign simply against the Labour Government's plan for a Scottish Assembly. They campaigned on the theme of No, but... In other words the Conservatives were not just defending the status quo. They were opposing what they regarded as a bad scheme for devolution; but if that was defeated then they would, if returned to office, convene all-party talks with the aim of finding a more acceptable alternative.

By voting against the particular scheme for devolution the Scottish electorate would not be confirming any alternative to devolution at all.

The scheme was defeated. The Conservatives were recruited to office and they have indeed taken the initiative for all-party talks. They wrote to the other parties concerned last summer

inviting them to preliminary talks. St John-Stevens, the Leader of the House of Commons, as Grand Committee in Scotland, and taking questions in the Grand Committee, which now holds second reading debates on uncontroversial Bills, considers the Scottish estimates debate other interests. These were simply ideas thrown out for examination, not specific government proposals.

The Scottish National Party responded that none of this had anything to do with legislation for devolution and has declined to take part in any further talks. The Liberals made the same criticism without referring to discuss further issues they may do so. The Labour Party has also complained about the lack of any proposal for an Assembly, but is prepared to consider these ideas as a separate exercise to try in the House of Commons, and to improve Parliament's conduct of Scottish affairs. So the hope is that there should be an open or early in February.

The objective, however, is to end the Ministers were pressed to modest. Nothing that is more specific to see if there placed would involve any significant change.

It would mean that the Grand Committee, with the heavy preponderance of Labour MPs from Scotland, would be able to block all contentious legislation placed before it by a Conservative

tion is dead for the time being, maybe for ever. It was killed not so much because of the technical imperfections in the Scottish Act as because the Scottish electorate was not prepared to gamble on a constitutional change of this consequence. The illogicalities in the scheme were, for the most part, either inherent in the concept of devolution or could be removed only by more radical change for which there was no substantial demand in Scotland.

Quite apart from English objections, there is no stomach in Scotland now either for reviving that scheme or for some variation on it. All the parties know this and the demands for discussions now about a new Assembly are either shadow-boxing or an attempt to establish a position for the future. Nor is there any case for seeking some form of substantive change halfway between devolution and the status quo. One possibility that is being canvassed in Scottish Labour circles is for the Scottish Grand Committee to consist of the Scottish MPs only and for it to deal with contentious legislation. This would certainly be a significant change.

It would mean that the Grand Committee, with the heavy preponderance of Labour MPs from Scotland, would be able to block all contentious legislation placed before it by a Conservative

relations with the inhabitants of a same village with a spirit of understanding, of charity. That is the language of the Lord borne to us by those messengers which are the bells of our village. Each time we shall bear their voices of bronze, let us not close our hearts, but harken to the voices of the messengers of the Lord. The rebirth of our bells is the rejuvenation of our little community of Surin. Thanks be to the municipality and all those who help us to rediscover their voice."

Marie, Celeste, Henriette, Albert? What was their name? The Cure regretted he had not been able to mention them during the ceremony; no one had climbed the steeple to check beforehand. But at the end of it the mayor, at his invitation, slipped into the vestry and pressed the magic button that set them in motion and they rang out joyfully.

Charles Hargrove

make up a very harmonious peal," the elderly Cure said in his homely little sermon, a gem of rustic oratory well suited to the occasion. "Even if they do not have the deep resonance of the boughs of our cathedrals, they are a precious expression of all community life. They thus mark the three main periods of the day. At dawn, noon, and at dusk, they scan our lives. They remind us of its brevity. Already 12, already seven, now the days slip by to us like chimes of our Angeluses.

"In the old days, when faith was stronger in our hearts, we heard the bells of our village ring out in our valleys and hills, one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven, twelve, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, sixteen, seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-two, twenty-three, twenty-four, twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven, twenty-eight, twenty-nine, twenty-</



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MAKING A START AT GAZA

One could hardly speak of a breakthrough in the talks which ended yesterday in Aswan between Mr Begin and President Sadat. Egypt and Israel remain far apart on the extent of the powers to be exercised by the proposed self-governing authority in the West Bank and Gaza, and also on whether East Jerusalem should fall within its jurisdiction or not. But there is a hint of a possible way forward in Mr Begin's statement that he will recommend his government to accept Mr Sadat's proposal that autonomy should be applied in Gaza first. That is welcome, and it is not an easy step for Mr Begin to have taken.

There are a number of reasons why agreement on autonomy for the Gaza Strip might be easier to achieve than agreement on autonomy for the two territories together. First and most obviously, it sidesteps the issue of Jerusalem altogether. Secondly, Egypt, which administered the strip from 1948 to 1967, retains some influence there and might find it easier to persuade local leaders to involve themselves than it would in the West Bank so long as King Hussein remains firmly abstentionist. Thirdly, Israelis might find it easier to go along with the idea of an autonomous Gaza Strip associated with Egypt than with the idea of an autonomous West Bank separate from

Jordan and looking at least potentially like the embryo of an independent Palestinian state. Fourthly, the Gaza Strip, having been inhabited in biblical times by Philistines, has less emotional significance for Israelis than do "Judea and Samaria". The chances of removing Israeli settlements there, or at least of preventing the establishment of new ones, are better.

Unfortunately, reasons why things might be acceptable to Israelis tend to be reasons why they might not be acceptable to Palestinian Arabs. At present the latter are unanimous in rejecting the very notion of autonomy, even in the whole of the West Bank as well as Gaza, arguing that it would merely oblige them to administer their own affairs according to the dictates of Israel, which would retain effective power.

There is an element of rhetoric in this position, although unfortunately some of the actions and statements of the Israeli government have tended to support the rhetoric rather than expose it. In reality many if not most of the Arab inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza would be glad to have autonomy if it meant the withdrawal of Israeli troops and an end to the encroachment of Israeli settlers on Arab land, and especially if it were a step towards Israel's complete and permanent withdrawal from the

Allegations about mental hospitals

From W. R. van Straubenzee, MP for Wokingham (Conservative)

Sir, Late on December 20 Mr Speaker kindly allowed me to raise on the adjournment of the House, the question of allegations made two years before of grave irregularities at Church Hill House Hospital at Bracknell, a hospital which cares for some 270 profoundly mentally handicapped patients. The allegations included cruelty and violence to patients, misuse of drugs, misappropriation of patients' money and the acceptance of bribes by members of the staff.

These sensational allegations were the subject of a lengthy and painstaking inquiry chaired by Mr Christopher Beaumont, QC. It is a fair summary of a detailed report that it dismissed all the allegations as totally without foundation, other than for two or three, one of which had not formed part of the original accusations.

For two years the unfortunate nursing, medical and administrative staff had to care for their patients with a cloud of suspicion hanging over them.

It has now been wholly removed, but only at a cost to the funds of the Berkshire Area Health Authority of £60,000. In one sense this is completely wasted expenditure if Mr Begin's recommendation; but quite certain that if they do, negotiations on the powers of the self-governing authority will still be extremely difficult. It is worth a try, but its chances of success would certainly be better if Israel would agree to a moratorium on further settlement in the West Bank while the experiment in Gaza was in progress.

Comparisons in the steel industry

From the Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive of the British Steel Corporation

Sir, I was interested to read Mr Upman's letter (January 10) commenting on the article of the previous day, giving performance comparisons between the British Steel Corporation and Japan.

One such Japanese works is the NKK plant of Fukuyama, which produces 15 million metric tonnes per year with a workforce of 31,000, including contract labour, in various forms of finished steel products such as motor plate, sheet, coil and sections. Although this type of works has been adversely commented upon from time to time in pursuit of the "small is beautiful" argument, it, nevertheless, represents by its cost and quality performance the supreme example of commercial competitiveness, which other steel producers—including the British Steel Corporation—have to face in world markets.

In 1975 I visited this works with Mr Sirs of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, and Mr E. Linton, representing our craftsmen, and Mr D. Delay of the TUC, to observe and discuss with the Japanese their approach to the employment of their workforce and the achievement of such high levels of productivity. Incidentally, the average age of the workforce at that

products. This is at the heart of our present dispute in respect of wages.

We have now good equipment which is neither as effectively manned nor operated as it should be. The solution lies in a higher degree of motivation to greater efficiency at plant level, rather than the diversions of quasi political arguments at national level.

This is the fact that management and workforce in the British Steel Corporation have to face up to. Yours faithfully,

R. SCHOLEY,
British Steel Corporation,
33 Grosvenor Place, SW1.

From Dr Shackleton Bailey

Sir, You report that Sir Charles Villiers said that the steelmen were looking for "Pennies from Heaven". Less devoutly, this can be termed "Pounds from Taxpayers", who out of their real earnings are already providing dole for men whose jobs have disappeared as well as considerable subsidies to maintain what remains of their industries.

The basic position which steelmen and others have to face is that they cannot be paid "the going rate" for jobs that no longer exist. In effect, these strikers are demanding that they shall be kept on unemployment benefit at a rate far in excess of the going rate for this; drawing it through the factory office rather than queuing up for the subsistence allowance alongside other unfortunate people who are no less deserving of real jobs and high earnings.

This is grossly unfair to their mates on the dole as well as to the taxpayer who is already making reasonable provision for the increasing number of people whose jobs are disappearing under the pressures of world recession and labour-saving technology. Payment of unemployment benefit at current rates for perhaps two million jobless in the near future is daunting enough without the prospect of catering for a privileged minority drawing dole at the going rate for the jobs in which they were formerly "employed".

Yours etc.,
SHACKLETON BAILEY,
The Old Mill,
Blockley,
Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.

From Mr B. P. Davis

Sir, Without going into the rights and wrongs of the steel strike, I would nevertheless appreciate guidance on a particular aspect.

Can someone please explain the logic of permitting strikers to claim Supplementary Benefits whilst the major union involved is not paying strike pay?

Yours faithfully,
B. P. DAVIS.

36 Harman Drive, NW2.

Assisted places scheme

From Mr Keith Turner

Sir, It is not surprising that Mr Merlin Rees, writing on January 7 as a Labour Member of Parliament, finds the Assisted Places Scheme objectionable. Might I suggest (and I write without affiliation) that from a Conservative viewpoint it is even more so?

The development of a truly public system of secondary education during this century, generations later than in France, Germany and most of the United States, is associated principally with the names of A. J. Balfour and Lord Butler. Is it not time that the Conservative Party recalled their achievement with a little more pride?

To take just one example: when not so many years ago, the Minister entered Oxford as an undergraduate, fewer than one in five of her contemporaries came. She did, from a maintained school.

Today, thanks very largely to the long-term effects of the Balfour and Butler Acts, as well as to a great deal of revised teaching, the proportion is nearly 50 per cent.

Like the Headmaster of Clifton (December 21), I believe that in certain areas and at certain times, it is desirable for certain children to be publicly assisted to take place in certain independent schools. But this, as we know, is perfectly possible already under powers held by local authorities and indeed also by the Department of Education and Science.

So surely now, in the 1980s just as in the 1900s and 1940s, is a time when the Government should devote all its resources and energies to the task of maintaining a sound system of public education, without extravagant disbursements. For, however strong one's sympathies may be for the independent sector, it is at very least an infelicitous piece of drafting in Section 17(1) of the Education Bill, which refers to "the benefit from education at independent schools".

More serious, though, is the doubt which these words and these proposals inevitably raise about the fidelity of the Government to the public sector of education for which it is statutorily responsible. It is strongly to be hoped that this will soon appear to have been only a temporary aberration from a proud tradition.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT BROWNING,
17 Belize Park Gardens, NW3.

January 9.

Invasion of Afghanistan

From Lord Perth

Sir, The United States of America has, rightly, stopped the export of 17 million tons of grain and other foodstuffs to Russia. It is to be hoped that the European Community will follow suit and no longer permit the export of butter, sugar or meat mountaineers to Russia on give-away terms.

What should we do with the resultant food surpluses?

There are millions in the Third World who are near to starving. Isn't this a tremendous opportunity for us to give these foodstuffs to the starving millions? This will cost us much in money terms and upset present budgets; but we should make this sacrifice so that our evil comes good.

Yours truly,

PERTH,
Stobhill, by Perth.

Reports from Afghan leaders fleeing to Pakistan about the murder of their families and the destruction of villages by the Russians are indications of what kind of campaigns will be waged against the Moslem rebels: with sufficient men, modern equipment and hard military planning the Russians will succeed where the British failed a hundred years ago, especially as those sympathizing with the Moslem rebels are not helping them with urgent arms and supply deliveries.

In 1956 the Hungarian Freedom Fighters were treated in exactly the same manner. The outcome of Afghanistan's occupation by the Russians will be as successful as that of Spain's sacrifice to the Moslem rebels are not helping them with urgent arms and supply deliveries.

Like the Headmaster of Clifton (December 21), I believe that in certain areas and at certain times, it is desirable for certain children to be publicly assisted to take place in certain independent schools. But this, as we know, is perfectly possible already under powers held by local authorities and indeed also by the Department of Education and Science.

So surely now, in the 1980s just

as in the 1900s and 1940s, is a time when the Government should devote all its resources and energies to the task of maintaining a sound system of public education, without extravagant disbursements. For, however

strong one's sympathies may be for the independent sector, it is at very

least an infelicitous piece of drafting in Section 17(1) of the Education Bill, which refers to "the benefit from education at independent schools".

More serious, though, is the doubt

which these words and these pro-

posals inevitably raise about the

fidelity of the Government to the

public sector of education for which

it is statutorily responsible. It is

strongly to be hoped that this will

soon appear to have been only a

temporary aberration from a proud

tradition.

Yours sincerely,

KEITH TURNER,
Headmaster,
Watford Grammar School,
Ruislip Road,
Watford.

bridge. To the best of my knowledge there were at that time no other prisoners in the vicinity. The bridge was already being built by the Japanese. Any memorial at that place would be inappropriate. The unimpressive notice has the virtue of being historically correct.

Anyone wishing to have a true picture of the terrain covered should travel by train from Kanchanaburi to the present railhead some miles north of Wong Po. Along this route can be seen some of the feats of improvised engineering which cost so many lives.

Yours faithfully,

R. W. N. BISHOP,
34 Derwent Road,
Stoneycroft,
Liverpool.

January 9.

Bridge Over the Kwae

From Mr R. W. N. Bishop

Sir, It appears that Mr Budden (January 2) and probably many others have been misled by a popular film based on a novel written by a Frenchman who wasn't there. This in no way detracts from the entertainment of either book or film. In both cases the background is realistic but the narrative

I was with one of the first parties sent to Thailand from Singapore in June 1942. Our first task was to build an embankment from Ban Po to Kanchanaburi on the east bank of the river. In the early autumn we were sent to Changmai on the west side, that is above the

bridge. To the best of my knowledge

there were at that time no other

prisoners in the vicinity. The bridge

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Yours faithfully,

N. G. BARBER,
Wetherby Minor,
Sedgeford,
Huntingdon, Norfolk.

ALEX LYON,
House of Commons.

January 7.

Whim Wham

From Miss Audrey Hogston

Sir, I was delighted to see a recipe for "Whim Wham" on your cookery page. Not only did it sound delicious, but it reminded me that when, as a little girl, I asked my mother what was in the broth—or any similar dish—she would answer "Whim Whams and goose's bridies". I have often wondered whether this was a typical example of her nonsense or a "London" saying of which she had a remarkable fund.

Do any of your readers know the expression and is there any hope that we may shortly be given a recipe for goose's bridies?

Yours faithfully,

AUDREY HOGSTON,
89 Marsh Road,

Pinner, Middlesex.

January 6.

Legal training grants

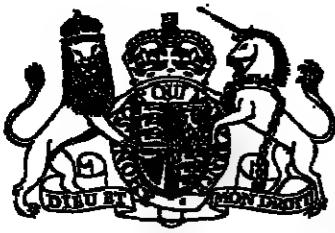
From Miss Virginia Bovell

Sir, John Harwood Stevenson includes "a working wife" as one of the enabling assessors for anyone going to the Bar (December 31).

It is clearly even harder for a woman to become a barrister than I had hitherto imagined.

Yours faithfully,

VIRGINIA BOVELL,
Lady Margaret Hall,
Oxford.



COURT CIRCULAR

CLARENCE HOUSE

January 10: Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was represented by Sir Martin Gilliat at the Memorial Service for the Lady Ballastraes which was held in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, this morning.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

January 10: Princess Alexandra was represented by Miss Monique Mitchell at the Memorial Service for the Lady Ballastraes which was held in the Chapel of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, this morning.

The Queen will open the Lancashire Conjurative Use Water Scheme and visit the Duchy of Lancaster Estates on May 20.

Birthdays today

Mr Nevile Duke, 88; Air Marshal Sir Reginald Emson, 68; Mr Justice Julian Jacob, 75; Major Sir Mark Milbank, 73; Sir Anthony Nutting, 60; Mr C. V. Pilkington, 76; Air Commodore Roy Tamblin, 54; Lady Gertrude Williams, 83.

Reception

Lord McGregor of Durrus Professor Lord McGregor of Durrus and the directors of The Political Quarterly Publishing Company held a reception in the House of Lords yesterday to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of The Political Quarterly. Among those present were:

Lord Amherst, Sir Patrick Nairne, Sir Peter Anderson, Sir Alan Hailstone, Mr P. D. Dickson, Mr Alan Wilson, Mr Michael Rossiter, Mr Eric Heffer, Mr Eric Mair, Mr Ian Mair, Mr Christopher Price, Mr Jack Straw, Mr Gordon Brown, Mr Bill Hepple, and Mr Anthony Gould.

Dinners

Anglo-Venezuelan Society Sir Anthony Royle, MP, chairman of the Anglo-Venezuelan Society, gave a reception at the House of Commons last night in honour of Mr Vito Lopez, Ambassador and Señor de Mendoza-Acosta and afterwards entertained them at dinner. Among those present were:

Viscount and Viscountess Gostling, Mr and Mrs Gurney of Harrow, The Hon. Duncan Head, Lord and Lady John and Lady Buckley, Dr and Señora de Mendoza-Acosta, General and Señora de Mendoza-Acosta and afterwards entertained them at dinner. Among those present were:

Royal Society of Medicine The annual dinner of the Section of Orthopaedics of the Royal Society of Medicine was held at Wimpole Street yesterday. Mr P. D. Trevor-Roper, president and the guests included Professor Ian Constable, who had earlier delivered the Lang Lecture.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E. C. Law and Miss A. J. Boyall

The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of Admiral Sir Horace and Lady Law of Cowper, West Harting Petersfield, Hampshire, and Julia, daughter of Commander and Mrs A. J. Boyall, of Island Chase Steep, Petersfield, Hampshire.

Mr J. W. Browne and Miss J. R. Beeson

The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of Major E. G. W. Browne, CB, and Mrs Browne, of Yew Tree West Malling, Kent, and Jennifer, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Beeson of Kv St, Sadova Samotnaya, Moscow.

Mr T. M. Woodwards and Miss C. P. Castle

The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Dr and Mrs R. G. Woodwards, of Bromley, Kent, and Cleo, daughter of Mr and Mrs R. E. Castle, of Hereford.

Mr P. H. N. Brightshaw and Miss L. Bone

The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs Harold Brightshaw, of Guernsey, Channel Islands, and Linda, only daughter of Signor and Signora Elio Bone, of Turin, Italy.

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The engagement is announced between Trevor, second son of Mr and Mrs V. N. Jones, of Geelong, Australia, and Lucy, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs G. T. Jones, of Dunsfold, West Germany.

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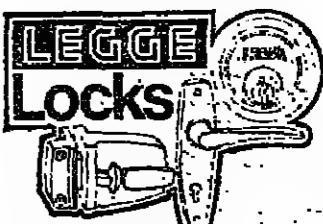
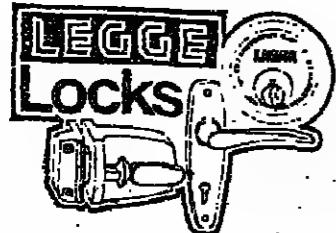
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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets
FT Ind 430.8 up 7.3
FT Gilts 65.83 up 0.49

Sterling
\$22395 down 70 pts
Index 70.9 down 0.2

Dollar
Index 84.3 up 0.1

Gold
\$600.5 an ounce down 59.5

3-month money
Inter-bank 163 to 1613/16
Euro \$ 14 5/16 to 147/16

IN BRIEF

Laird chief joins board of British Shipbuilders

Mr John Gardner, chief executive of the Laird Group, has been made a part-time member of the board of British Shipbuilders for two years, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, announced yesterday.

Mr Gardner has been non-executive director of British Airways and British Leyland and a member of the National Enterprise Board. He is a non-executive director of Courtaulds and has been chief executive of the Laird Group since 1970.

Mr John Gardner

Italians fined £9.4m

An Italian building contractor and his wife have been fined £7,000 lire (£9.4m) and jailed for five and three years respectively for illegally exporting currency. They set up companies in Switzerland and Liechtenstein to own property they redeveloped in Genoa.

Research centre

Micro Focus, a London computer software company, is to set up a research and development centre at Swindon. Wiltshire. Swindon council is campaigning to attract high-technology companies, such as electronics and pharmaceuticals, to the area.

Strikes hit output

Last year's engineering strikes were largely responsible for a 7 per cent decline in the industry's output in the third quarter. Mechanical engineering was hardest hit, with a fall of 8 per cent on the previous quarter.

Car production falls

Disputes inside and outside the motor industry were the chief cause of a steep fall in Britain's car production last year. Sales were a record 1.7 million, but domestic output fell by 12.8 per cent compared with 1978 to 1,067,000.

Meccano shutdown

Management and union representatives refused last night to discuss the outcome of talks on the Meccano factory shutdown in Liverpool. Workers have been occupying the plant in protest at the closure and redundancy terms for 940 staff.

Rosy outlook for 1980

West German business and industry could face the future with confidence, despite the forecast slowdown this year, according to the German Industry Federation (BDI). "The year 1980 has a well-consolidated base, and the expected slowdown in economic growth will not affect this at all," BDI said.

PRICE CHANGES

Rises

East Dagga 10c to 75c
Ferranti 22p to 449p
Grottoval 30c to 675c
Hammermill "A" 20p to 760p
Imp Cont Gas 22p to 623p

Public sector borrowing almost certain to exceed £8,300m target

By John Whitmore
Financial Correspondent

The public sector borrowing requirement seems increasingly likely to exceed the official target of £8,300m in the current financial year. The main issue now is almost certainly whether or not the final outcome for the PSBR will be above or below £8,000m.

This is in spite of the measures announced in November by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, to correct a probable overshoot. The fear at that stage was that the PSBR would be some £700m over target, largely as a result of the delay in collecting telephone revenue.

To correct this the Government accelerated payments of Petroleum Revenue Tax, but even with this it still seems likely to face a significantly larger PSBR than expected.

The reasons for this lie both in the expenditure and revenue sides of the equation.

On the expenditure side yesterday's central government borrowing figures for December show that in the first nine months of the financial year Consolidated Fund expenditure was running 17 per cent ahead of the corresponding period of last year. This compares with a budgeted increase of 15 per cent for the full year.

Although expenditure had been expected to run some way ahead of the 15 per cent norm in the first half of the year, the rate of increase had also been expected to start falling back as the year wore on. Supply Service expenditure, the largest element in Consolidated Fund expenditure, appears to remain buoyant, and it increasingly looks as if the allowance for

shortfall made in this year's spending plans is going to prove over-optimistic. That does not, however, necessarily mean that the cash limits laid down by the Government come under pressure.

In terms of revenue the main item of concern continues to be the sluggish payment of Value Added Tax. While the Government feels there is no reason to reduce its estimates of the amount of VAT that should fall due in the present financial year, it is clear that many businesses are simply not turning up on time. This may be because some are under-financial pressure at the moment, or because they are making use of the liquidity available to them to put money on deposit at the high rates of interest currently obtainable.

Although the Inland Revenue recently increased the penalties for late payment of tax, the Customs and Excise authorities, who are responsible for the collection of VAT, have no powers to sharpen the very modest penalties they can apply. The Government does, however, have the power to accelerate VAT payments by moving to monthly, as opposed to quarterly, collections, though it apparently does not intend to invoke this power at this stage.

VAT payments apart, the Government's revenue has been flowing reasonably well. In the first nine months of the year it has been running 19 per cent ahead of the corresponding period of 1978-79. The official forecast was for an 18 per cent increase over the full year.

Overall central government borrowing in December was £1,662m (against £1,448m in

at the Christmas market, and they were no luckier last year.

Mr Victor Watson, the chairman of Videomaster management, said: "We have had problems with Videomaster since it bought the company from the receiver in July 1978 for £700,000. A typhoon in the Philippines put the group's major supplier out of action,

responsible for the equipment missing in the videos.

By Alison Mitchell

A near £3m loss on television video games by Monopoly manufacturer John Waddington took the City by surprise yesterday.

News that first half profits had slipped into deficit initially knocked the share price lower but as short term speculators covered their positions and long term investors took advantage of the equity weakness, the shares ended the day 12p higher at 120p.

Waddington's has had problems with Videomaster since it bought the company from the receiver in July 1978 for £700,000. A typhoon in the Philippines put the group's major supplier out of action,

responsible for the equipment missing in the videos.

How seriously the Government is concerned about the probability of exceeding its PSBR is not clear at this stage. It may, however, find at least some relief in the fact that the City already appears to be well prepared for a PSBR overrun of around £9,000m.

Yesterday the gilt-edged market was in a bullish enough mood to exhaust supplies of the long-dated "lap" stock, Treasury 14 per cent, 1990/91.

Supplies were finally exhausted at a price of 96.1, the stock was originally offered at 95.1, and market estimates put sales of the stock yesterday at £400m to £500m.

The Government had rather more modest success with its new stock offering, Exchequer 14 per cent 1984. In this case it is thought that £100m to £200m of the new £1,000m stock were sold on application. What was less clear, however, was the extent to which the authorities' sales were straight sales or involved switching operations.

Financial Editor, page 19
Table, page 20

Slowdown for US economy

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Jan 10

America's economic activity is slowing down and is set to decline further in coming months, according to new government reports.

At the same time, a new inflation report says there is little hope of significant short-term improvement.

The Bureau of Labour Statistics reported that wholesale prices for finished goods rose by 0.8 per cent (adjusted) in December. This was the smallest rise registered since last June, but wholesale prices for semi-finished goods were up by 1.2 per cent.

The Department of Commerce's latest business survey suggests that real private fixed investment spending this year may rise by only 1 to 2 per cent, compared with 4.5 to 5.5 per cent in 1979.

Most businesses are reporting high sales levels so far, but cuts in planned investment suggest they are expecting the economy to slow.

House building is already showing a significant decline. Sales of new houses was down 15 per cent in November against October, and a new forecast by the Mellon Bank's economists suggests that total new construction this year will be about 1.4 million units, which is 17 per cent below 1979.

Federal Reserve officials continue to complain loudly in public about the rate of inflation and thereby strengthen the impression that the FED has no intention of softening its tight credit policies. Mr Charles Evans, one of the Fed's governors, said last night that recent money supply figures had "amazingly favourable" figures for the first quarter of 1980 might not be quite so good, he said.

Wholesale prices have gained by 12.5 per cent over the last year, with the index now at 227.8 (1967 equals 100), food prices, in particular, are moving so erratically that no clear trend is apparent.

Although the Co-op is Britain's largest retailer, its market share has declined in recent years. But the 1979 results, due out soon, are expected to show a sales growth around 3 per cent with no further erosion in market share.

A decision on the new chief executive is expected to be made during the summer.

The CWS supplies goods and services worth £1,700m a year to Britain's 11,000 Co-op shops operated by the 205 retail societies, whose representatives make up the governing board.

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The CWS is to have a meeting next month with Co-operative Retail Services, the £415m-a-year retail sales giant which grew out of an ambulance operation for societies in difficulties.

The chances of the two combining are not rated high in the movement but with these key discussions coming up, the CWS has acted quickly to appoint a new chairman as successor to Mr William Farrar, who retired unexpectedly last month, although he retained his

Diamond field may be among world's largest

By Michael Prest

A diamond field which may be one of the biggest in the world has been discovered by the Ashton Joint Venture at Smoke Creek, Western Australia, according to reports from Australia last night. But no indication was available of the quality of the stones or their number.

Conzinc Riotinto of Australia, which has 52.5 per cent of the venture and is 68.2 per cent owned by Rio Tinto-Zinc, is reported to have said that only five fields are known to be of considerable size within their claim area. But the progress report is careful to say that the diamond content of the kimberlite and alluvial deposits vary widely and more work is needed.

Preliminary work suggests that the two deposits range in width from 50 to several hundred metres, and in depth from one to five metres.

along Smoke Creek, AK 1 is estimated to be 45 hectares in area.

This compares with 146 hectares for Mwadui in Tanzania, the world's largest, and 106 hectares for the Orange deposit in South Africa operated by Dr De Beers.

South African variously claims to cover 30 hectares.

It may be true that the Ashton partners—who include Ashton Mining, AO Australia, Tasman, Sibeka and Northern Mining—have located a field of considerable size within their claim area.

But the progress report is careful to say that the diamond content of the kimberlite and alluvial deposits vary widely and more work is needed.

Preliminary work suggests that the two deposits range in width from 50 to several hundred metres, and in depth from one to five metres.

The choice of the two combining are not rated high in the movement but with these key discussions coming up, the CWS has acted quickly to appoint a new chairman as successor to Mr William Farrar, who retired unexpectedly last month, although he retained his

position as chief executive of the North Midlands Society.

The new chairman is Mr Peter Paxton, 56, who has been chief executive officer of the Cambridge and District Co-operative Society for seven years.

Mr Paxton is an influential figure in the national movement with a seat on the union's central executive committee.

Imports of textiles from Cyprus into Britain are to be restricted under a voluntary agreement covering shirts, trousers, blouses, dresses and work clothing. The agreement runs until the end of 1980.

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Bar put on Cyprus textile imports

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Sweden expects record deficit

Sweden's Government has set out a record deficit in next year's draft budget, with more than a quarter of public spending financed by debts.

Attempts to hold down public spending were defeated by higher oil costs and automatic increases in welfare benefits.

The deficit for the financial year starting on July 1 will be 550,400 kronor (£5,777m) compared with 490,000 kronor (£5,111m).

Mr Ingemar Mundebo, the Minister for Budgetary Affairs said forecasts of similar deficits well into the 1980s gave cause for concern.

Japan selling water

Mitsui and Co, of Japan is negotiating to export fresh water to Kuwait in idle tankers. The company is testing the market in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to sell water from Yakuima Island which has high rainfall.

Dutch wage freeze

Mr Andreas Van Agt, the Dutch Prime Minister, announced a two month wage freeze after the failure to agree a four-month voluntary wage pause with employers and trade unions.

German pay claim

The West German metal workers union is demanding an increase of 10 per cent with a minimum of 153 marks (about £40) a month rises for 172,000 members in Rhineland-Palatinate.

EEC growth slows

EEC figures show industrial production in the Community grew four per cent last year—well above the 2.4 per cent increase in 1978.

But latest monthly figures confirm that production in the Community is slowing down.

US silver prices rise

Silver speculators, whose buying helped boost the metal's price six-fold last year, are apparently not swayed by the New York commodity exchange's moves to restrict their holdings. Silver for delivery this month rose \$1.69 an ounce to settle at \$33.50 on the exchange.

Oil imports increase

Japan's imports of crude oil in 1979 would probably be the second largest ever at more than 280 million kilotonnes, industry officials said yesterday. Statistics showed that imports between January and November last year were up 5.7 per cent on last year.

Italy's car exports fall

Italy's output of cars dropped to 1.49 million units in 1979, from 1.509 million the previous year, according to Auto Makers. Car exports also showed a downward trend, to 630,000 from 640,000 in 1978. Exports of industrial vehicles rose to 39,000 from 36,500.

Chrysler aid offer

Chrysler Corporation has received a cash aid offer from Michigan that could provide the company with more than \$200m. The most important element calls for the company to mortgage its newly renovated Trenton engine plant in return for a loan from Michigan's state pension fund.

Motor plants close

General Motors Corporation said it would temporarily halt production at six plants next week, bringing its total of workers on temporary layoff to 30,300. The shutdowns will affect car production at assembly plants in Michigan, Kansas, California and Ohio.

Resurgence of private demand behind the price boom, bankers say

Gold reverts to its traditional role

Although gold may be settling back from the high achieved at the beginning of this year, few European bankers are counting on a sharp fall in price.

This is because the belief is growing that the demand for gold has undergone a structural change in the last 12 months.

In Europe, the Middle and Far East and North America, gold is being bought by people who in the past would never have dreamt of buying the metal. Perhaps even more important for current price developments, those people who hold gold are simply not selling.

It is the growth in individual demand that lies behind the latest gold rush rather than any diversification of reserve assets by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries market.

It now seems doubtful that the monetary authorities of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait, the three Opec nations with a strong surplus today, were behind the latest price rise.

But it is known that Arab trading houses have been significant buyers of gold, apparently to satisfy private demand.

The gold market is a difficult market to analyse because final demand is diverse and often concealed. It is a market domi-

nated by emotions rather than logic, and predominant emotion is fear.

Over the last 12 months, the world has seen the "boor people" turned out to sea, the revolution in Iran, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The British public, which has never experienced invasion or occupation by enemy forces, may be shocked by such events but does not think immediately of buying gold.

Elsewhere in the world, outside North America, such scenes on the television screen, night after night, awake old memories that in times of crisis, gold is often the only way of ensuring escape from death. The blocking of Iran's assets in United States banks is also a reminder that gold is a portable asset.

In West Germany, for example, many people owe their existence today to a bag of gold coins kept under the bed which was typically used to bribe an escape to the West ahead of invading Soviet troops. In France and Belgium, many a family was able to survive enemy occupation in the Second World War because of a private gold hoard.

The argument that fear is the main reason behind the present gold rush is

substantiated by the almost total absence of private sales, despite the dramatic increase in price. The typical gold holder is well off, and does not need to realize profits to finance purchases such as a house or a car.

The other major factor sustaining the price of gold is the shortage of new supply. Although the Soviet Union has reappeared in the market during the past few days, it is believed that its gold sales over the past year were well down on the level achieved in 1978.

Now that gold is scarce, President Carter has cut back grain sales to Russia, the Soviet Union will have to sell even less of the meat to meet their hard currency needs in 1980.

Although demand may calm down after the excesses of last week, shortage of supply is likely to be a dominant factor in gold markets in 1980.

The conviction has grown that the gold price can surge upwards without severely affecting currency markets. In such circumstances, it is hardly surprising that the West's central banks have decided, for the time being at least, against dumping gold on the market to quell speculative excesses.

Peter Norman



Mr John Pearce: terminals connected to a Florida computer centre.

Inroads into US market by Insac

By Kenneth Owen
Technology Editor

A significant advance into the United States market is announced today by Insac Viewdata, the National Enterprises Board subsidiary which markets developed versions of the British Post Office's Prestel information service.

With General Telephone and Electronics (GTE), its American partner, Insac has signed contracts for viewdata systems in the United States to its customers include Chase Manhattan Bank; J. Walter Thompson; McGraw-Hill; Merrill Lynch; Pease, Fenner and Smith; and Time Inc.

Mr John Pearce, managing director of Insac Viewdata, said that each corporation will install from one to five viewdata terminals in its offices. These will be connected via a GTE computer centre at Tampa, Florida.

Insac expects the market for private viewdata systems (house company information systems, as distinct from the Post Office's Prestel public service) to expand rapidly during the 1980s.

Many of the newly contracted corporations, Insac believes, will establish their own in-house viewdata systems, but Insac's private system is claimed to be the first offered in the United States.

Business appointments

Bestobell post for Mr Walter Goldsmith

Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors, has been made a non-executive director of Bestobell.

Mr Peter James Paxton has become chairman of the board of Cooperative Wholesale Society in succession to Mr William Farrow, who has retired.

Mr Arthur Whitaker has been made chairman of David Dixon & Son Holdings.

Mr Alfred Levy has been made group managing director of Carless, Capel & Leonard. Mr John Leonard continues as executive

chairman. Mr Roy Emerson, Mr Ken Wiseman and Mr Ken McDonald have become directors of Carless Solvents and Mr Lou Stroud a director of Carless Petroleum.

Mr Peter R. Ward-Lee is now chairman of Bestobell Home Appliances and Bestobell Paints & Chemicals. He retains the managing directorship of the latter.

Mr Clive Forell is the Post Office's new director of purchasing on the retirement of Mr Howard Cadwallader.

Mr C. Rossington has become company secretary of Dowty Boulton Paul in succession to Mr

Mr B. W. H. Craft has joined the board of Twinlock. He was director of Twinlock UK.

Mr P. E. Cooper is to become finance director of Petbow. He takes over from Mr J. E. Quinn, who is leaving from the board of Petbow Holdings. Mr Cooper will continue as company secretary of Petbow Holdings and Petbow.

Mr Mark E. Grossop has been made technical director of Dowty Meco.

Mr C. Rossington has become company secretary of Dowty Boulton Paul in succession to Mr

G. A. Woolsey, who has retired. Mr M. J. Gardiner is now director and secretary of Office and Electronic Machines following the retirement of Mr G. C. Baker.

Mr D. G. Bradley and Mr L. T. Smith (USA) have joined the board.

Mr M. E. Smith, financial director of Reliance Motor Group is now on the board of J. F. Nash Securities. Mr C. L. Parker has resigned as a director of J. F. Nash Securities, leaving the board of J. F. Nash Holdings.

Mr Tim Worrall has been made chief executive of GKN Autoparts (UK).

Mr John Higgett becomes director and general manager of Simplex GE Lighting.

Mr David Reeves joined Zoom Television as sales director.

Mr Bruce Hyde has become marketing director of Saccos & Space.

Mr R. B. Mead becomes a director and Mr K. W. Hart an assistant director of Antony Gibbs & Sons.

Mr R. Cunliffe, overseas controller of Royal Insurance. Mr J. W. Parrott, overseas accountant, is not a director.

Mr Hans-Joachim Rehder, formerly chairman of Kidder Peabody International, has joined the Credit Suisse First Boston Group from France.

Mr P. B. Hamilton has taken over as chairman and chief executive of Hall-Thermon Tank in place of Dr D. K. Fraser, who remains a director.

Mr Richard M. Miles is the new managing director of Saunders Valve Company.

Mr Martin Baker is now a partner of Taylor and Humbert.

Mr Neil Livingston becomes regional controller of Alex Lewrie Factors.

Mr C. S. H. Wilkins is to take over as managing director of Saxon-Croft, on the retirement of Mr P. W. White later this year.

Dr Robert A. Easton, formerly planning manager, has been made director of planning of Delta Metal.

Mr J. W. E. Hellierly is now deputy managing director of Triples Safety Glass Company.

Mr Anthony Wolfe has joined Wolf Electrical Tools (Holdings) as a non-executive director.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Need for changes in companies' board structure and accounting

From Mr J. B. H. Jackson
Sir, The proposals in the Companies Bill concern the duties of directors to their employer. Hugh Stephenson's "Slow-burning fuse" (Business News, January 8) should be welcomed by the community as a whole and particularly by company directors.

This is not because it reflects "best present practice", which it does. Nor is it because it relieves directors from the necessity of always being able to rationalise their decisions as being in the interests of shareholders and to prevent sometimes.

It is because the proposals make it clear that duty is to be performed by directors to the company, although the profit goal being continuity is not actually to come into their hands.

Nevertheless, if they are willing participants in a situation in which society as a whole requires continuity to be the dominant factor, their interests should be seen in that light and held to exclude the possibility of maximizing distributable profits by the adoption of accounting policies regarded as detrimental to continuity.

The significant end of Hugh Stephenson's fuse lies under the subjects of directors' remunerations and accountancy policies. It is time that the thought that has been given to both these subjects was blown into more action. Both of them are very important in an industrial community and can ultimately have a profound impact both on the rate of adaptation to technological change and on the climate of industrial relations.

Some of the nastiest problems at present under our noses make it clear that time is not on our side. Moreover, with regard to board structures, there are again ideas floating around in Brussels and Strasbourg, some of which are wrong in themselves in that they link board structures too closely to

of dollars could have as much gold as they want.

At something approaching its current, as yet thinly traded, market value of well under a tenth of its 1933 parity, the dollar might once again become, for a time, as good as gold—though who would credit indefinitely a fixed parity?

If it all along the parity had depreciated continuously at a tolerably variable rate of a few percent a year, we might already have arrived where we could be heading, without the turmoil of recent years. At a rate of 5 per cent a year over 40 years, \$35 an ounce would have grown to \$347.

A continually varying gold parity would be better than none at all. At least it could accommodate what is the central weakness of any fixed-parity system—the chronic inflation of secondary currencies.

We could leave for another day the invention of a primary asset more acceptable than gold.

Quantity is not a problem because the ideal reserve asset total quantity is fixed and does not have to be decided. Availability will look after itself if the price of the asset is right, in terms of the unfixed paper money that serves the people as a day-to-day store of value: there is a price at which bidders

would also depend on the stability of Britain's European trading competitors and a move was not expected with our coordination with these nations, sources said.

They added that a refusal to negotiate a new or extended agreement might have more adverse effects on British industry than Soviet industry.—Reuter.

Role of reserve asset

From Mr D. R. Persson
Sir, Trust the people. They may be smarter than the economists.

Your leading article of January 4 rightly recommends that in some way holders of dollars have to be offered some reserves in return and the quantities sufficient to satisfy their current desire to diversify out of the dollar".

If it all along the parity had depreciated continuously at a tolerably variable rate of a few percent a year, we might already have arrived where we could be heading, without the turmoil of recent years.

Britain has gone through difficult times since 1945 and made many mistakes, but surely it is time that we all realise that if we do not buy our own products we do not deserve to survive as an industrial nation.

Yours faithfully,
ALEXANDER KENWORTHY,
Holly Howe,
Tayles Hill,
Ewell,
Surrey.

Challenge of Finniston

From Mr Peter Weitzel
Sir, At the dawn of the decade, when we are looking at a technological future, the Finniston Report provides sombre reading about our past and a challenge to all for the next decades.

Industry, which has not yet appreciated the importance of training and the education system, which has not fully adjusted to the different needs of the technician and the engineer, have to cooperate both in the formation of the trainees and in his or her commitment to maintain a fitness to practice in the face of rapid change.

Society,

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Waiting for the next tap stock

It seemed a good day for the monetary authorities in the gilt-edged market. With the market in a more bullish frame of mind and institutional coffers starting to fill once again, the Government Broker was able to run out the remainder of the long "tap"—perhaps as much as £400m-£500m of it. On top of that there was at least some interest in the new short "tap"—possibly to the tune of £100m-£200m.

All of this should be good news for monetary control, not least for the January money supply figures that the market has been feeling rather nervous about in spite of the apparent slackening in monetary growth in November/December. The unknown factor in all this, however, has been the amount of net sales the authorities achieved yesterday. The feeling in some parts of the market yesterday was that they may not have been all that large.

If that is the case, then it is unlikely to be long before we see a new long-dated stock launched. Certainly, yesterday's Central Government borrowing figures for December were quite as bad as feared and though the market may well have discounted a full year PSBR of around £9,000m, there is little scope for the authorities to ease up on their funding programme, particularly if CTDs are being heavily applied towards tax payments at the moment.

Highland Distilleries

Judging the downturn

The response by Highland Distilleries to Hiram Walker's £80m cash offer suggests that at this stage Highland is prepared to allow the issue to become bogged down in detail. It can afford to do that; its share price at 14½p is still riding 11p above the terms and big institutional shareholders—Britannia with 5 per cent and Prudential with 4.2 per cent—seem to be saying that they don't like the look of the offer.

Thus, Highland avoids any discussion of the underlying asset position (which I think will be the crucial argument if this bid follows its full course), gives no profits forecast or any indication of future dividend policy. It means that Highland has several important shots in its locker if it needs to use them—and Hiram must decide by a week today whether to extend its offer, and presumably if it does by what amount it will raise the terms given that the response so far has been negative.

That begs the question about whether Hiram will continue or consider that it has enough on its plate with its plans to move into the Canadian energy industry and merge with Godderham & Worts without battling through the complications involved in a successful bid for Highland.

The complexity of Highland's links with Robertson & Baxter, an important blunder in which Highland holds a 35.4 per cent stake and with which it shares the benefits of Highland's best-known Scotch brand, Famous Grouse, are spelt out in Highland's latest document which includes an outline of the agreement between the two.

Until now Highland has treated its stake in Robertson as an investment taking dividend income and valuing it in books at only 50.2m. But it now says that the "commercial reality" of the association is that it is not merely a trade investment.

Quite apart from the sort of sums thrown up by consolidating the Robertson stake, its share of Robertson net assets would mean that Hiram's terms are perhaps as much as 30p short of Highland's potential net value. That debate comes later, however.

First, we shall have to see whether Hiram has the confidence to go further, and it would be no surprise to see Highland's share price expressing such doubts next week.

English China Clays

Shots in the locker

After a sluggish first half, when it was dogged by bad weather and the transport strike, the second half has really come good for English China Clays to leave full year profits 35 per cent ahead at £35.1m. Indeed, the underlying performance was even better with £3.8m of one-off debts charged direct to profits and a £1.6m extraordinary credit arising from a claim to claw back stock relief taken below the line.

How much that is conservative accounting

and how much it reflects ECC's concern about the 1980 outlook is uncertain. But now that it has proved it can get back on a growth track after the previous year's slip, the key factor now for the shares is how hard it will be hit by the recession.

The first quarter of this year has got off to a good start with an average 12½ per cent price rise from January 1 and volume holding up. ECC says it is uncertain about the course of the recession. But its stocks are beginning to rise and the last time restocking in the paper industry took place in a big way five years ago, clay demand slipped a lot more than the 2-3 per cent downturn for which the group's internal forecasts are budgeting.

ECC, in common with other groups, has also weathered the anticipated downturn in quarries, again due to good price increases, and profits in the quarry division rose almost a tenth to £7.1m. With transport also £400,000 ahead at £2.7m, the only black spot was building where provisions on a contract in Northern Ireland and closure losses on a couple of ill-judged ventures in the West Indies and the Middle East have meant a £1.1m write-off, offsetting perhaps £600,000 a year from the leisure side.

There is still enough momentum to provide a strong opening half this year. But a dull second half will lead to little earnings growth this year and the fully-taxed p/e ratio of 8 looks high compared with what is available on similar investments.

As promised, the dividend has gone up by just over a quarter to 7.1p a share gross for a yield of 8.8 per cent at 81½p. Longer-term there are still nagging worries that the centre of the paper industry could move from Scandinavia, where ECC has its monopoly, to the southern United States—hence ECC's move to buy small clay producer there at the end of last year, whose £10m price tag has caused balance sheet gearing to edge up.

Sotheby

Up goes the dividend

Although Sotheby Parke-Bernet figures were not up to best expectations, they provide little support for the bid rumours that have had the share price fluctuating during the past year. Moreover fears of possible action by the Restrictive Practices Court also appear to have been assuaged, while the

dislike which most European bankers feel for the contamination of their commercial and business relationships by politics is shared to some extent by their central banks. This was illustrated clearly by the unenthusiastic reception which the Americans experienced when they toured Europe and Japan last year to drum up support for President Carter's decision to freeze official Iranian assets.

Far from joining in the freeze, Britain, West Germany, Switzerland and others refused at that stage to contemplate any financial measures against Iran. Bankers breathed a sigh of relief.

The strength of sterling undoubtedly had a detrimental effect on the results, which showed a 22 per cent increase in gross revenue to £38.3m on net sales of £186m, compared with £161m the previous year. Sotheby's belief that sales would have topped the £200m mark but for exchange losses.

With the fine art market in the United States improving its contribution annually—last year sales amounted to £66.7m of the group total—and the general flight from money, it is hardly surprising that the most dominant feature of Sotheby's trading in the first four months of the current year was a 31 per cent increase in United States auction sales. So, despite a warning about the company's vulnerability to inflation, its optimism expressed in the dividend is probably justified.

How much that is conservative accounting

Some of those now keeping their fingers most tightly crossed for the American hostages in Iran are the sober-suited men in international banking.

The mixture of politics with banking is anathema to them. But they have already been dragged into the conflict between America and Iran, and could become even more deeply involved if the hostages are not released soon.

It is now clear that countries with big financial centres and which are close allies of the United States would force their commercial banks to impose severe restrictions on their business with Iran if the United Nations approves sanctions. That includes Britain.

The British Government has drawn the line at freezing Iran's assets, but has now agreed to impose restrictions on new deposits in British banks by official Iranian bodies, on new borrowing and on converting official Iranian dollars into other currencies, if the United Nations approves sanctions.

That may yet decide to go ahead with those measures even without a sanctions resolution if other European countries and Japan join in.

One reason why America's allies might agree to do that is, ironically, the United States threat of sanctions against the Soviet Union in retaliation for the invasion of Afghanistan.

America would certainly like its allies to commit themselves to such action, especially now that Russia has indicated that it will veto a sanctions resolution. But such agreement is not yet in the bag.

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The second reason is more straightforwardly commercial. Many British banks have substantial claims against Iran. In

Since then there has been a definite shift of sentiment towards the Americans. This has been most marked at the political level and most noticeable in Britain. Grumblings from the City suggest that British bankers are less than happy with Mrs Thatcher's apparently unequivocal support for the Americans.

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action against Iran, then Britain will no longer be singled out.

It is, however, extremely hard to substantiate such stories. Some bankers claim that so far there have been negligible repercussions on London's role as a financial centre from the United States-Iranian troubles.

Such a prospect understandably send shivers through the banking world.

There is, however, a slightly more optimistic version of this financial game plan which suggests that British banks might benefit if the Americans persuade their allies to go ahead with the proposed financial measures against Iran. There have been rumours that Iranian and other oil money is being switched out of London, or not brought in the first place, because Britain is seen as a strong backer of the United States. If other countries, whose banks compete for funds with British banks, join in coordinated

If they do, the refusal to accept new deposits would tie the hands of the Iranians, forcing them to take their money right outside the major banking world, if they want to switch it at all. It would in the end be very difficult for Iran to carry out its business.

Any deposits in, for example, Algeria, or Libya would—in the end—to find their way back into the major centres. If they were then identified as Iranian they could be rejected by American, European and Japanese banks, making normal financial operations impossible for Iran.

The shock waves from the United States-Iran money war will be felt in the banking world for some time. They will be that much greater if the financial conflict is widened to include West Europe and Japan.

But the longer the hostages are held in violation of international law the harder it is for America's allies to refuse to match verbal support with action.

It is probably still true that if the hostages are released unarmed the bankers can uncross their fingers and return to business as usual. But one semi-permanent side-effect of this crisis will be an enormous boost to lawyers' business on both sides of the Atlantic.

They have enough work to last them for months if not years, on the various writs and counter-writs concerning Iranian deposits with foreign branches of American banks. They are also now getting their teeth into changes banks want to make in the structure of syndicated loans.

The decision by Chase Manhattan to declare an Iranian loan in default on technical grounds and without giving full information to all syndicate members will lead to a vast increase in the legal documentation on these loans.

Transformer makers on a slimming diet

Richard Evans

ment. "We were delighted to get these latest contracts and everybody here had high sights of relief."

The lack of demand at home is such that any one of the company's still producing transformers could fill all orders and would still need export trade.

"We are not such an important segment of the economy as we used to be," Mr Saunders adds. "There is not the demand to meet the capacity. Nobody has yet decided to cut out and get out—the market forces are having to do it for them."

He, together with others in the industry, believes that there is a way ahead through all the gloom and doom. With companies having introduced, or undergoing, pruning in an effort to be more competitive there are still overseas orders to be won—especially in South Africa, Greece, Australia, Saudi Arabia and India.

"We are not such an important segment of the economy as we used to be," Mr Saunders adds. "There is not the demand to meet the capacity. Nobody has yet decided to cut out and get out—the market forces are having to do it for them."

Developing countries, such as South Korea, stopped ordering from United Kingdom companies as they themselves became more highly industrialised and East European countries, searching for hard currency, began successfully to undercut British groups.

But it was the intervention of the Japanese in the latter part of the seventies which was to be the real catastrophe for United Kingdom companies.

United Kingdom companies

guaranteed the immediate future of GEC's Stafford plant; but they do not sign the start of a bright new future for the transformer industry, which has become little short of an industrial disaster area. GEC Power Transformers survives, but the decline which has plagued the business since the mid-1960s has hit other well-known victims.

The most recent was Ferranti, which would have closed its transformer plant much earlier had it not been for government intervention. Last September it finally decided to pull out and complete remaining orders at its Holdsworth plant in the south of England.

The downfall of a once booming industry began with the completion of 275 kilovolt (kV) and 400 kV systems which had kept the overexpanded business reasonably busy.

With home orders rapidly dwindling, British companies felt the pinch as European groups began to compete in traditional United Kingdom export markets. It became apparent that the British had dropped behind technologically.

Since 1965 the number of companies producing major transformers has dwindled from about 14 to fewer than half a dozen and the industry's workforce has been halved in the last decade.

As companies searched for export orders during the 1970s they came up against further barriers. The energy crisis and projections of slower industrial growth have led to a "restructuring" a year ago, with the inevitable redundancies, so it could reduce overheads and become more competitive.

Parsons Peebles in Edinburgh is going through the same process now. Last month it announced it was cutting its 1,750 workforce by 400 because of the fall in demand. But its determination to emerge successfully from the industry's gloomy past is reflected in its decision still to go ahead with a £500,000 investment programme.

Mr Peter Saunders, commercial director of GEC Power Transformers, sums up the recent past of the industry as a "disaster story". He believes there is still too much capacity chasing too little demand.

Mr Geoffrey Harper, one of the directors of Hawker Siddeley's power transformer plant at Wellingborough, says: "It is going to be difficult, but I think we are probably well placed as anybody."

Parsons Peebles is confident that it will pull through, while GEC, boosted by the Drax order from the Central Electricity Generating Board, says that it is strong enough to survive.

Their hopes and determination to succeed will not, of course, be a guarantee in themselves of success in gaining orders against the strong competition from overseas, even when it comes to contracts awarded as a result of Britain's expanding nuclear power station programme.

As one company spokesman put it: "I would have thought the worst was over for the British power transformer industry. It depends on what happens to oil and gas and how much electricity is going to be used in the future—and the next five years are crucial."

In the older industries, there is competition not only with other advanced industrial nations but also with low-wage developing countries, backed by the latest production technology and often with a substantial capacity for exports.

In Britain these industries are in general not competitive because their labour productivity is low and this will get worse as competitors adopt new technology.

So in this sector future success will depend on companies adopting more efficient manufacturing methods. Research and development must aim at more automated production, more cost-effective design and higher reliability in manufacturing processes and end-products. This could well be one area where foreign technology may need to be imported.

Even if productivity does improve, however, traditional export markets in developing countries will be lost to new industries growing up in these countries. This requires know-how and advanced equipment and this must mean scope for export business.

Small enterprises, the advisory council noted a gross imbalance in the national pattern of R and D resources. Companies with more than 5,000 employees accounted for more than 80 per cent of both research and development manpower and industrial R and D spending, and received more than 90 per cent of the total government spending on industrial R and D.

In other words, small businesses spend little on research and development. Often they depend on their founders' experience and contacts, which are inevitably limited, rather than on any formal research and development organization. More and better consultancy services would enable small

Caroline Atkinson

Iran: how far will the banks be made to go?



President Carter entertaining Mrs Thatcher in Washington last month: her unequivocal support for the American line has caused some concern in the City.

action against Iran, then Britain will no longer be singled out.

It is, however, extremely hard to substantiate such stories.

If formal commercial relations between Iran and Britain are suspended, these banks could eventually find themselves whistling for their money.

Such a prospect understandably send shivers through the banking world.

There is, however, a slightly more optimistic version of this financial game plan which suggests that British banks might benefit if the Americans persuade their allies to go ahead with the proposed financial measures against Iran. There have been rumours that Iranian and other oil money is being switched out of London, or not brought in the first place, because Britain is seen as a strong backer of the United States.

It is probably still true that if the hostages are released unarmed the bankers can uncross their fingers and return to business as usual.

But one semi-permanent side-effect of this crisis will be an enormous boost to lawyers' business on both sides of the Atlantic.

They have enough work to last them for months if not years, on the various writs and counter-writs concerning Iranian deposits with foreign branches of American banks. They are also now getting their teeth into changes banks want to make in the structure of syndicated loans.

The decision by Chase Manhattan to declare an Iranian loan in default on technical grounds and without giving full information to all syndicate members will lead to a vast increase in the legal documentation on these loans.

Appointments Vacant also on page 8

THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL
Research Administration & Planning
c£16,500 p.a.

Applications are invited for the post of Second Secretary of the Natural Environment Research Council, which will become vacant on the retirement of the present occupant in April 1980.

The Council was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1965 and is grant-aided by the Department of Education and Science in accordance with the Science and Technology Act of 1965. The role of the Council is broadly to encourage and support research in the sciences which relate to the natural environment and its resources, the principal disciplines being geology, geophysics, oceanography, marine and freshwater biology, hydrology, terrestrial ecology and the atmospheric sciences.

The Council has or grants funds a number of research institutes and supports research and post-graduate training at the universities in the above disciplines. The Council also owns and operates a fleet of research vessels and other central research facilities. The present annual budget of the Council is £66.5m, of which about one-third is obtained by undertaking applied research commissioned and paid for by several Departments of Government. The permanent staff of the Council number about 3,100.

The post of Second Secretary is a key one in the organisation. The duties of the post are generally to support and act for the Secretary of the Council, who is the Accounting Officer across the whole range of Council business. Within this remit, the Second Secretary will be expected to give special emphasis to the planning, development and review of Council's scientific policy programmes and priorities, in conjunction with the institutes and universities, and to the representation of Council's interests in liaison with other organisations, national and international.

Applicants should therefore have extensive experience in research, preferably in the field of environmental sciences, and in the management of scientific activity at senior level.

The post is graded at Under Secretary and is based at the headquarters of the Council at Swindon, Wilts. The salary will be £16,714 pa rising to £18,000 on 1 April 1980. There is a non-contributory superannuation scheme.

Application forms are available from:-

Mr. F. S. Rosier,
 Natural Environment Research Council,
 Polaris House, North Star Avenue,
 Swindon, Wilts. SN2 1EU.

Telephone: (0793) 40101 Ext. 323
 Closing date: 31 January 1980.

THE YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN
 now in its 125th Anniversary year
 requires

APPEALS SECRETARY

To take responsibility for all the Association's fund raising activities at National level. Initiative, drive, enthusiasm and administrative ability important. Salary around £7,000. Experience in Fund Raising would be advantage.

Further details and application form from the Personnel Department, 2 Weymouth Street, London WIN 4AX, quoting reference No 78.

SELWYN SCHOOL, MATSON HOUSE, GLOUCESTER

Applications are invited for the

HEADSHIP
 of this Independent School

of 250 girls, which will become vacant in January, 1981, owing to the retirement of the present Headmistress. The school prepares girls for the Oxford "O" and "A" level examinations and university entrance. Candidates should be graduates and communicants members of the Church of England. Further information concerning the school and details of application may be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Headmistress at the school.

DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER
RESOURCES ADVISER

Applications are invited for the above new post from lay persons who are practising communicants. The duties will involve the stimulation and teaching of new approaches to giving in parishioners on the basis of the report "A New Approach to Communication".

The salary will be within the General Staff Grade I, Scale I, Salary Scale (excluding London Weighting) £5,950-£7,250.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Diocesan Secretary, Church House, 9 The Close, Winchester, SO23 9LS.

PRESS RELATIONS EXECUTIVE

A new appointment in the West End office of a leading firm of Industrial Design Consultants operating in Europe and the Middle East.

Responsibilities cover information gathering, preparation of material for the company's publications and press promotion of services.

Candidates should have a proven record of writing ability with a flair for creative promotion. Preferred age 25-35.

Please mark your envelope "strictly confidential" enclosing full career details and present salary to:-

Managing Director
 GALTZINE & PARTNERS LTD.
 7 Ecclesone Street, London SW1W 8LX

GENERAL VACANCIES

BRITISH MUSEUM

ASSISTANT KEEPER

PRINTS AND DRAWINGS

... to specialize in the work of J. M. W. Turner. The principal task will be the restoration and cleaning of drawings in the Turner Bequest. Other duties will include the care and study of the Turner Collection as a whole, the answering of enquiries relating to the artist, and the selection and cataloguing of exhibitions drawn from the Bequest.

Candidates must have a degree with first or second class honours (preferably in the History of Art) or an equivalent qualification, and will be expected to have some specialized knowledge of the work of J. M. W. Turner. Experience of cataloguing would be an advantage.

The appointment will be for a period of up to 5 years.

SALARY

AK 1st Class—£7,430-£11,955;

2nd Class—£4,980-£6,730.

Level of appointment and starting salary according to age, qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form, to be returned by 1 February, 1980, write to Establishments I (ref. 4/80), British Museum, London, WC1B 3DG.

PRODUCTION PROGRESSOR Clubhouse, 128, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3SD. A magazine is looking for a lively enthusiastic production progressor to work in various departments. To work in previous experience is desirable. However, we would consider candidates who want to make a background in the industry. Salary £1,200 per week holiday b.a. £1,500. Applications for interview should be made to Mr. Jeremy Horner, 01-324 2324.

MANAGER/ESS required for Kings Head Public House, 128, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3SD. In writing to Jeremy Horner, 01-324 2324, candidates required for overseas students. The position involves a general office and administrative work. Salary and hours negotiable. Applications for interview should be made to Mr. Jeremy Horner, 01-324 2324.

TRAVEL CONSULTANTS required if you either a graduate widely travelled, have had travel experience. Although full training given, you will be required to maintain a routine office work. Send details to Mr. Jeremy Horner, 01-324 2324.

WEATHER FORECASTER, man or woman, professional or skilled, with experience in weather forecasting, required urgently for new television programme—Box 100, The Times.

EXPLORATION MANAGEMENT opportunity for a person with property experience to join international company. We require a young hard working person to lead the exploration team in the field and have the potential to move rapidly into a management position. Negotiation, car and finance benefits. Contact Arthur Nichols, Managing Director, Northern Management International, Tel. 01-628 8282.

FIELD PRODUCER requires successful experience in oil/gas exploration, in tax shelter schemes. Contact: John Doherty, 01-324 2324.

GENERAL VACANCIES

ASSISTANT EDITOR—Newspaper editor in Gloucester needs well-organized, self-starting and copy-editing to work with general and illustrated books with an opportunity to work individually. Two weeks' holiday b.a. £1,500. Salary £1,200 per week. Apply to Mr. Jeremy Horner, 01-324 2324.

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GENERAL VACANCIES

Stock Exchange Prices

Rally continues

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings Began, Dec 28. Dealings End, Today. § Connally Day, Jan 14. Settlement Day, Jan 21
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

John Foord
plant and machinery valuers

High Low Stock		1st. Gross Div Yield %		1979/80 High Low Company		Gross Div Yld %		1979/80 High Low Company		Gross Div Yld %		1979/80 High Low Company		Gross Div Yld %		1979/80 High Low Company		Gross Div Yld %		1979/80 High Low Company		Gross Div Yld %			
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Motoring

Country petrol stations to go on closing

There is growing concern in rural areas about the availability of petrol among those who, thanks to the decline of public transport, have become particularly dependent on the car for essential journeys.

In 1978 (last year's figures are not yet ready) more than 1,400 filling stations closed in Britain, leaving 28,000 compared with 37,000 in 1970. That is a drop of 30 per cent and although they have affected urban areas as well, closures have come most heavily on country districts where there were fewer stations to begin with.

'Nor is the slide likely to be halted. Mr Robert Pearson, petrol services director of the Motor Agents Association, has said that there are still 3,000 too many sites and one oil industry source has predicted that by 1985 the total will be only 17,000.

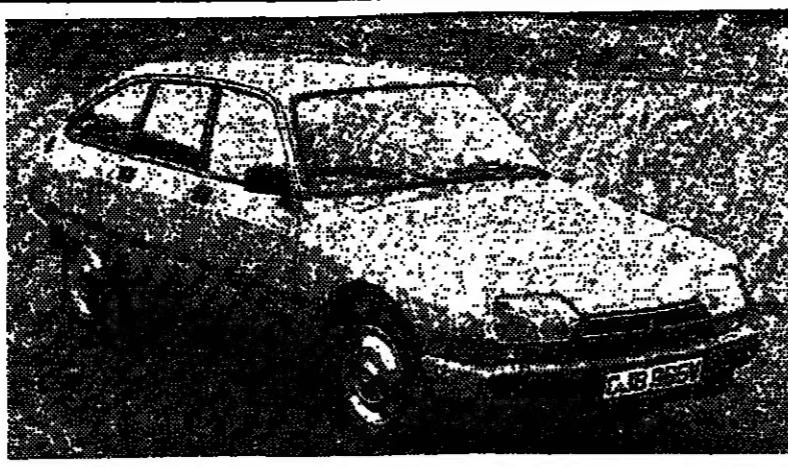
This is an unwelcome prospect for motorists living in the country who feel they have suffered enough over the last 30 years from the loss of such amenities as trains, buses and village shops. The Association of District Councils sees the closing of petrol stations as one more example of rural deprivation and has asked its 330 member authorities to watch the position closely.

The oil companies are often cast as the villains of the piece, callously withholding supplies to stations on which a local community depends. Undoubtedly, during the petrol shortage of last spring brought on by the Iranian crisis, country areas suffered disproportionately and there are worries that what happened then will become permanent.

The trouble is that the oil companies are beholden to their shareholders, as well as to the community at large, and it is the big oil companies that make the money. One of the main suppliers carried out a survey in 1978 and found that nearly half its sites were accounting for less than 10 per cent of volume. Conversely, 10 per cent of sites were selling 40 per cent. Since the survey, that polarization has become more pronounced.

Recent calculations by Shell help to underline the point. It compared a big, self-service filling station with an annual throughput of 525,000 gallons—a typical average—with a small, rural forecourt selling only 20,000 gallons, which again is representative.

Despite charging 61.15 a gallon against £1.25, the city site made a surplus of £34,800, or 6.63 pence



The Citroen GSA—more power and a fifth door

for every gallon sold, while the rural station made a deficit of £9,500, losing as much as 29.67 pence a gallon. The only way such rural sites stay solvent is to have other lines of business—such as car hire, repairs and servicing or even the local post office.

At the same time, partly because of the distances involved, it costs an oil company more to supply scattered rural stations. So, not surprisingly, Shell, BP, Esso and, to a lesser extent, other companies have been rationalizing their networks. Shell sites have dropped from 6,500 to 4,700 in the last three years (though two thirds of those stations found other suppliers).

In most cases the yardstick is hard economics, though Shell does operate a "five-mile" rule—con-

tinuing to supply uneconomic stations in areas where there is no alternative within a distance of five miles.

Oil companies maintain that motorists have hastened the closure of local filling stations by driving (probably many more than five miles) to the nearest town just to get petrol for a few pence a gallon less. "If motorists want their local petrol stations," one oil man said, "they must be prepared to support them."

Road test: Citroen GSA

Few cars have worn the years better than the Citroen G series, which will be celebrating its tenth anniversary in August. Ahead of its

time in 1970, the car is still one of the best and most advanced in the light/medium sector and one can think of many models launched since some of them, regrettably, in the British Leyland range—that have lasted nothing like as well.

The GSA, which has just appeared in Britain, is the latest version and the first hatchback. As well as five doors, it has a five-speed gearbox and the biggest engine yet fitted to a G series car, a 1299cc version of Citroen's air-cooled "flat four". The body has been lengthened by three inches and slightly reskinned to give a smoother appearance. There is a new grille and rubber spoilers under the bumper to reduce drag and improve handling. The GSA will replace the 1222cc models but the 1129 G Special continues.

A criticism of the G series is that it has been underpowered and although the busy, free-revving engine has felt lively, the figures have not been as good as those of some competitors. Perhaps more important in the current climate is that a small engine working hard to move a big-giant body has not been the best recipe for outstanding fuel-consumption.

The increase to 1299cc has helped to improve both performance and economy. Acceleration (0 to 60mph in less than 15 seconds) is more competitive and if the claimed 100mph top speed is largely academic, it does mean more relaxed cruising. Consumption is said to be 16 per cent better in town driving and I would expect most owners to get 30 to 35 mpg on the whole. The engine still sounds busy, even in fifth gear, but on the whole it is a rhythmic noise rather than a raucous one. But having shown the

way, why not a still bigger engine, say, a 1600?

As for the hatchback, facility, the G series has always been such a roomy car that it has needed a rear door less than most. There may be some disappointment that, unlike the saloon's boot lid, the GSA tailgate does not come down to floor level but the amount of boot space is impressive, particularly when the rear seats folded down when it adds up to 27 cu ft. Rear legroom is very generous but the slope of the body-shell at the back does restrict headroom.

Otherwise the GSA offers the mixture much as before. Undoubtedly its best feature is the side A hydropneumatic, self-levelling system which works off the engine (hence the need for the ignition is turned off and the car sinks considerably down) may be a complicated form of suspension but the result is superb and no other car in the class rides as smoothly. There are soft and comfortable seats to match, a new design with better support for back and thighs.

The corollary of the soft suspension is a lack of crispness in handling. The car rolls considerably on corners, where it is nothing like as nimble as a firmly sprung German car like the Opel Kadett which I reviewed last week. But those things will not detract the Citroen from roadholding or driving pleasure. The steering is heavy at low speed and the car does have a tight turning circle. The five-speed gearbox, like the four, is sprightly in the French manner but easy to get used to.

The GSA, of which there is also an estate version, provides a genuine extension to the range and I will not be greatly surprised if the car

runs for another 10 years. And with a yet bigger engine it could become a formidable competitor, indeed racing on models like the Alpine, Corsica and Cavalier. GSA prices run from £4,060 to £4,530.

Cylinder ploy

Several car manufacturers, including our own BE, have been working on variable cylinder engines—but so far no one has been bold enough to suggest when such a unit will be fitted to a production car. BMW, the German company, could be the first to do so after an announcement this week that it expects to have a variable cylinder system ready in about two years.

The engine is a development of the BMW 2.3 litre. To give maximum performance on the open road it runs on all six cylinders, switching down to only three cylinders in town driving, with consequent improvement in fuel consumption. Tests have suggested that overall the variable cylinder will be some 25 per cent more economical than a conventional 2.3.

BMW is also jumping on the diesel bandwagon. It is building a factory in Austria in association with Steyr-Puch with a capacity of 100,000 diesel engines a year. Prepared to turn a corner of car production, the company's diesel should be in production within two years. But the company maintains that the petrol engine is far from finished and predicts that with further development it will give almost as good economy as a diesel.

Peter Waymark

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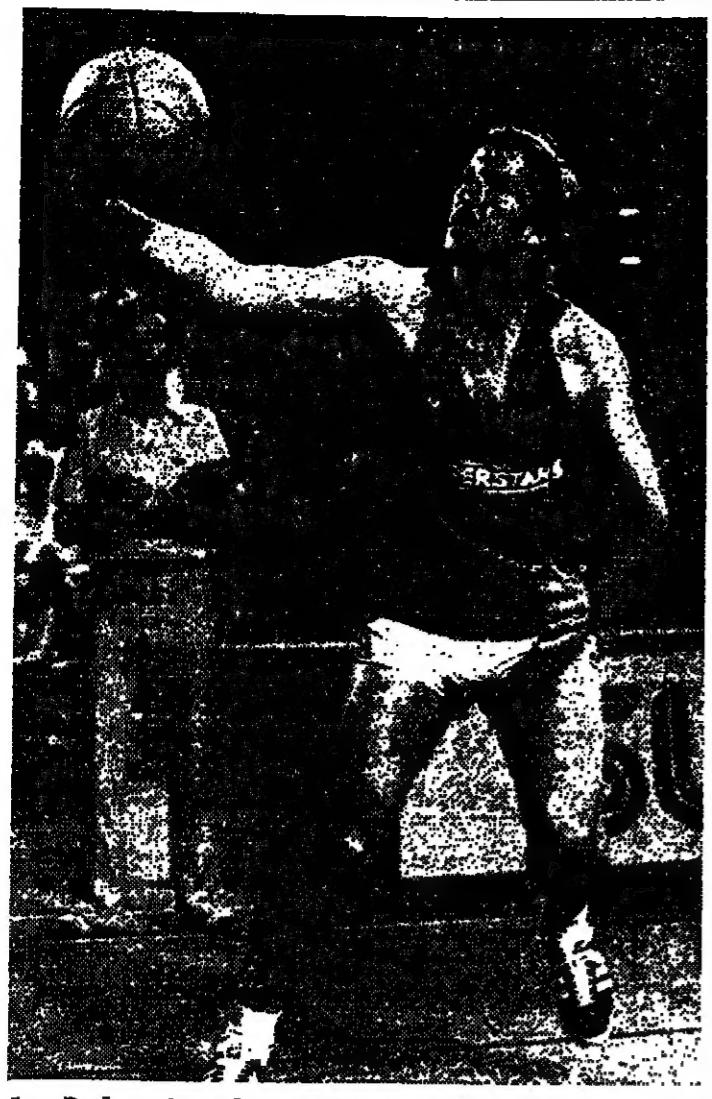
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PERSONAL CHOICE

Ian Botham in a less familiar sporting role in tonight's edition of *The Superstars* (BBC 1, 7.00)

● I assume you are as relieved as I am that television has now run out of puff in its determination to scamper backwards through the past year, even the past decade. The last part is probably represented by today's edition of *After Noon Plus* (ITV, 2.00), but at least the retrospective theme will expire on what sounds suspiciously like a strong note. No review of the past year here, nor of the past decade, but a much longer look back, almost to the dawn of the century. In the studio, facing that caring interviewer Mavis Nicholson, will be Lord Brockway, the pacifist peer; now a sprightly 92; Lady Wootton of Abinger, Socialist life peer, economist and former deputy Speaker of the House of Lords (83); Lady Huxley, widow of Sir Julian, an expert on the fauna of Africa (also 83) and making her TV debut; and Sir Victor Pritchett, the author and critic and, at 80, a comparative junior.

● The advent of a Francis Durbridge thriller is always an occasion to celebrate, and though Mr Durbridge has done much more (and better) work for radio and TV than the Paul Temple yarns and *The World of Tim Fyler*, it is by these two superbly crafted sets of thrillers that he is chiefly remembered. *Breakaway* (BBC 1, 8.30) is not one serial but two, each of six episodes. Martin Jarvis is the detective on the point of quitting the force so that he can write books. Then comes a murder and he has to think again. I welcome Mr Jarvis's reversion to drama. I did not think he looked at all at home amid the domestic absurdities of *Rings on their Fingers*.

● Any budding writer who manages to pen the words Chapter One and then gives up the ghost, will find comfort in today's feature by June Knox-Mawer (Radio 4, 4.10) in which eminent writers like Kingsley Amis and Deric Francis, describe the agonies and strange gestation rituals that precede the birth of the written word... The marriage between Parliament and the BBC has, is having, and will always have, its ups and downs and today's repeated Radio 4 feature (11.05 am) marks the Golden Jubilee of this happy/unhappy couple.

WHAT THE SYMBOLS MEAN: *STEREO; *BLACK AND WHITE; (r) REPEAT.

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davall

TELEVISION

BBC 1

12.45 pm News and weather.
1.00 Pebble Mill at One: Includes a tribute to the killed-off radio programme *Family Favourites* and an interview with the up-and-coming actress Cheri Lunghi.

1.45 Mister Men: Arthur Lowe tells the children's story of Mr Bounce and Mr Silly (r). *Closedown at 2.00*.

3.20 Pobol y Cwm: Serial in Welsh, 3.55 Play School: Kathy Squires' story, *The Lazy Line* and the *Bouncy Line*.

4.20 The Nitwits: cartoon. The Hopeless Diamond Caper (r).

4.35 Jackanory: Another of Joanna David's readings from *Natalie Babbitt's* thriller *The Eyes of the Amazons*. The concluding chapter.

4.50 Tarzan, Lord of the Jungle: cartoon. Tarzan and the City of Gold (r).

5.15 Grange Hill: part 2 of the serial about a comprehensive school. Today: a friendship begins to dissolve.

5.25 The Fishers: Leonard Rossiter and Maurice Dodd's funny Rosary (r).

5.30 News: with Richard Baker.

9.25 The Assassination Run: Part 2 of a thriller about a kidnapped wife (Mary Tamm) and the former British agent (Malcolm Stoddard) who goes to Spain to get her back.

10.15 Points of View: Barry Took, fighting the clock, tries to answer

5.40 News: with Kenneth Kendall. 5.55 Nationwide: includes Desmond Lynn's Sportswide.

7.00 The Superstars: Another contest between sporting all-rounders. Tonight's line-up consists of Daley Thompson and Danny Nightingale (decathlon) and television newsreader cricketeer Ian Botham and Derek Randall, boxer Charlie Nash, jockey John Francome, tennis ace David Lloyd and Rugby League international player Stuart Wright.

8.00 My Wife Next Door: Continuation of last week's story about the couple (Hannah Gordon, John Alderton) who are still awaiting their decree absolute. Tonight: the reconciliation that could have been.

8.30 Francis Durbridge's Breakaway: First episode in a 12-week thriller serial (two separate stories), with Martin Jarvis as a detective. With Glynn Houston and Angela Brown (see Personal Choice).

9.00 News: with Richard Baker.

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"For by grace ye are saved
through faith; it is the gift of
God." — Ephesians 2: 8.

**1980 Cutty Sark/Times National Crossword
Championship**

I enclose cheque/PO for £1.25 payable to Grand Metropolitan Hotels Ltd, my entry fee for the 1980 Cutty Sark/Times National Crossword Championship, with stamped and addressed envelope.
Name (please print) _____
Address _____

Choice of venue
(Only one choice, but London application preferable for either
London "A" or "B" should simply enter "London")

Competitors may qualify to take part by correctly solving
the puzzle and submitting this puzzle. Competitors should complete the
puzzle and entry form and post it with entry fee of £1.25 and a
stamped and addressed envelope (for notification of result of
entry) by first class mail to National Crossword Championships,
7 Stratford Place, London W1A 4YU, so that the entry is
marked not later than Monday next, January 14. The solution
will be published next Wednesday, January 16, and all qualifiers
will be informed by post no later than Friday 18. Qualifiers
will be invited to the same site where they will be required
to attempt the eliminator puzzle mentioned below.

Regional finals will be one-day (four-puzzle) events as follows: Birmingham, March 23; Grand Hotel (capacity 150
competitors); Edinburgh, March 30; George Hotel (100); York,
April 20; Viking Hotel (100); Bristol, May 18; Dragonary
Hotel (120); Chester, June 1; Grosvenor Hotel (120); London
July 12; Europa Hotel (250); London B, July 13; Europa
Hotel (250). No referee will be present at the
regional sessions. Refreshments will be provided free.

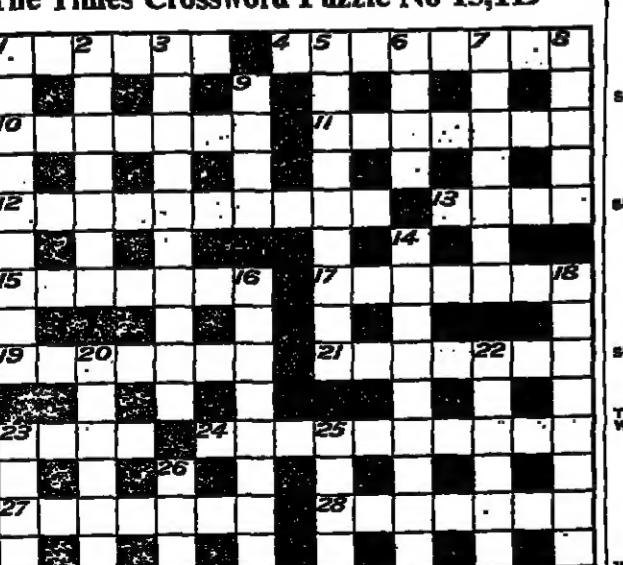
In the event of all-the-all entries for any venue exceeding
the accommodation available competitors will be required to
attempt the eliminator puzzle which will be published (if it
is needed) on Friday, February 15. Competitors are warned that
this will be a more than usually difficult puzzle, but incomplete
(or partly correct) solutions may well qualify, since only the
least successful entries will be eliminated.

Finals in the following week. The regional winner will qualify
plus one additional competitor for every 50 competitors over the
first 60; thus from 61-120 competitors two will qualify for the
final, from 121-180 three will qualify, and so on. The qualifiers
from the seven regional finals together with the National Cross-
word Champion for 1979 will attend the National Final at the
Europa Hotel, London, on Sunday, September 14.

Cutty Sark's prizes include the following at each regional
championship with Cutty Sark trophy and luncheon for
two to London for the National Final, including first class rail
travel, de luxe hotel accommodation, theatre tickets and meals.
Prizes will be awarded to the next three places at each regional
final. Additional qualifiers will have their hotel and rail travel
expenses paid to the National Final. The winner of the Cham-
pionship receives the silver Cutty Sark Trophy, a weekend
for two in Paris, and a colour television set. The runner-up will win
a weekend for two in Paris, third place a weekend for two in London or
Edinburgh. Further prizes will be awarded down to eighth

In the event of any dispute the decision of the Crossword
Editor of The Times will be final. Employees of Times New-
spapers Ltd, Cutty Sark Scotch Whisky and Grand Metropolitan
Hotels may not compete.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 15,119



ACROSS
1 Like the price of fuel oil
and candles (6).
4 A sweater, we hear, for my
lrd's carriage (13).
10 Who has been meeting
this hazard (3-4).
11 Dispute that killed the abra-
cross (7).
12 No such confusion before
the last (7).
13 After our last letter, any
more would be crazy (4).
15 Mrs Punch's namesake's
floral tribute (7).
17 Artfully, one doctor out
of his wits (17).
19 French wine vat, Virginia
lost—most serious (7).
21 Learned a new way to die,
or perhaps? (7).
23 One side of, for instance,
Bristol (4).
24 Like an enemy given
passage back? Gum, it stinks! (10).
27 This fine of equal value to a
sovereign (7).
28 Refused extract from novel,
eg Anthony Adverse (7).
29 One sure caught red
through being unskilled (8).
30 Doesn't shake the port (6).
DOWN
1 Carriage for a spin on the
merry-go-round (9).
2 Who, so far, are im-
plicably more godly (7).
3 Suddenly utters a jest—a
clue, confound it! (10).
5 Necessary to make return
for one's inclusion (9).

BIRTHS

BARING — On January 9th, in
London, to Michael, son of
BOWMAN — On January 1980,
John and Elizabeth son, a
brother for Louis and George.
Burial at St. James's Church, Piccadilly,
London, on January 19th, at 11 a.m.,
followed by cremation at Croydon.
EVANS — On January 9th, in
Gloucester, to John, a son
(Charles), brother for Georgia.
FITZPATRICK — On January 10th,
Gibsons Maternity Home, New
Zealand, to John (newborn).
HARSBORNE — On January 10th,
son of James William Joseph.
HILL — On January 10th, in
St. Mary's, Wednesbury, to
Margaret and Raymond son,
Mark, born on January 10th, in
Queen Charlotte's Hospital, in
London, to John and Margaret.
HODGES — On January 10th, in
Hospital, to Jacqueline (see
Gauthier) and Michael twin
sons, and Michael twin
daughters, Michael and
Michaela.
JONES — On January 10th, in
Edinburgh, to Charles (newborn)
and Terry, Moyle — son
of John and Terry Jones.
REED — On 13th December, in
the University, Frenchay, Bristol,
Pauline and David — a beautiful
boy, born on January 10th, in
Anthony (see daughter) (Laura
Julian).
WYATT — On 17th December
in London, to Christopher and
Patsy (see daughter) (Orla
Annette), a sister for Emma.

BIRTHDAYS

COATE, MICHAEL ARTHUR
— Transient who was the first
full-bodied vintage year, Signed
FOULSHAM, ANNA, born a year
ago today. Happy birthday and
many more to come. Sorry we couldn't announce it
MILD and AUNT EL — Congratulate
our 80th birthday. Love — Julia and Jane.

GOLDEN WEDDING
PARISH, MURPHY — On January
11th, 1960, in St. John's, Ballymena,
Ireland, F. W. B. Parry to Brenda
Whittemore, 10th anniversary.

GOLDEN WEDDING
WHITTEMORE, WHITSLAW — On
11th January 1960, in St. Dunstan's,
Lodsworth, Portsmouth, Sussex.

MARRIAGES

RUBY WEDDING
DU PREE, CHAPMAN — 11th Jan-
uary 1980, Clifford and Margaret
(C.) — 2nd marriage.

BUDBRIDGE — On
11th of January 1980, at the
Oxford, London, S.W.7. Tom
and Linda.

REGISTRATION — On
11th January 1980, at the
Clerk of the Registry, London, S.W.1.

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